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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

TWENTY-SIX VOLUMES.

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COLONIES.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE;
SIERRA LEONE; GOLD COAST.

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REPORTS

Made for the Year 1854 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1854.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
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REPORTS

EXHIBITING

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

PART I.

NORTH AMERICA.

CANADA.

No. 1.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir Edmund Head, Bart. to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 154.)

Government House, Toronto,
15th December 1855.

(Received, 1st January 1856.)

Sir,

I am quite aware of the delay which has taken place in transmitting the Blue Book for 1854. I have now the honour to enclose it, and I feel that I owe an apology for such apparent neglect.

The removal of the seat of Government from Quebec to Toronto has made it impossible for me hitherto to obtain, in a complete state, the volume now forwarded. I had felt, moreover, that until some time should have been spent by me in Upper Canada, as well as in the lower section of the province, I was scarcely competent to offer any remarks on the prospects and present condition of the whole country to which these statistics relate.

My predecessor, the Earl of Elgin, closed his long and successful administration by placing before Her Majesty's Government an able and faithful statement of the condition in which he left Canada; and this statement encroached upon the very time to which the present "Blue Book" properly relates—the year 1854.

I have little therefore to say at the present moment in illustration of the condition of Canada in 1854. I have taken occasion to visit one or two portions of the eastern section which possess particular interest, and I have employed the interval between leaving Quebec and settling in Toronto in making personal acquaintance with the people of some of the principal cities and towns in Western Canada.

It is gratifying to me to be able to report, as I have already done, that I was everywhere received as the Queen's representative with the strongest marks of loyalty and attachment to Her Majesty's Government. Indeed, it is impossible to exaggerate the universal expression of sympathy with the arms of England, and the universal profession of respect for the person of the Queen.

I am glad, too, to think that the condition of the country is such as to dispose men's minds to maintain these feelings of contentment and loyalty.

The harvest of the province, taken as a whole, has been abundant and prosperous. Late rains inflicted some injury in portions of the country, but the supply of food in the hands of families settled in the various districts of Lower Canada has far exceeded what it has been for either of the two preceding years. I have been told this by persons themselves engaged in farming, as well as by those of the clergy and gentry who had ample means of learning the truth on the spot.

CANADA.

In Upper Canada the prosperity of the season has been perhaps more marked, because it is essentially a wheat-growing country; and the price of grain has been, and still is, such as to make the abundant produce a source of direct pecuniary gain to the farmer. Most persons will tell you that a dollar a bushel for wheat would pay the Canadian farmer, but the price throughout this autumn has averaged nearly double this; so that it is not a matter of wonder if the country bears upon its face the outward marks of progress and advancement.

The timber trade has been depressed, and the export from Quebec and Montreal has fallen far short of the usual quantity, as the following table, which I have every reason to believe correct, will show:—

Supervisor of Cullers' Office, Quebec,
12th November 1855.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Timber, Staves, Masts, Bowsprits, and Spars, measured and culled to Date.

	1853.	1854.	1855.
White Pine - -	17,422,724	19,167,311	12,660,036
Red Pine - - -	1,851,435	3,670,345	2,250,035
Oak - - -	1,169,614	1,746,297	2,023,362
Elm - - -	695,284	1,828,327	1,837,835
Ash - - - -	158,990	218,215	125,107
Basswood - -	6,916	22,474	16,071
Butternut - - -	1,207	1,787	1,685
Tamarac - -	707,551	2,607,056	232,904
Birch and Maple -	71,007	44,926	119,749
Masts and Bowsprits -	1,067 pieces	1,856 pieces	615 pieces
Spars - - -	849 pieces	2,731 pieces	3,112 pieces
St'd Staves - -	1542.1.0. 6	1359.6.0.11	2218.6.2. 4
W. I. Staves - -	2447.2.3.18	2018.4.0. 5	2671.4.1.21
Barrel Staves - -	2.7.1.23	0.2.0. 1	0.3.3.18

(Signed) WM. QUINN, Supervisor.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Arrivals and Tonnage at this Port, in the Years 1854 and 1855, to the 12th November, is as follows:—

1854 - -	1,313	Vessels	- -	579,518	Tons.
1855 - -	677	„	- -	346,449	„
Less this Year	636	„	- -	233,069	„

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Arrivals and Tonnage from the Lower Ports in 1854 and 1855, up to the 12th November in each Year:—

1854 - -	183	Vessels	- -	14,819	Tons.
1855 - -	186	„	- -	14,797	„
More this year	3	„	Less -	22	

Some compensation has been sought and found in the access of sawn and rough lumber to the United States market, under the provisions of the Reciprocity Treaty, but many of the Quebec merchants have complained of the want of the usual number of ships to take freight from that port.

I cannot help hoping that the scarcity of tonnage will have prevented the Home market from being overloaded in the course of the season just ended, and that the next spring may open with a prospect of a rapid improvement in prices. I am not yet sufficiently conversant with the proposed modifications of the French tariff to know how far they disclose any clear view of a wider market for Canadian produce generally, but, judging from the statements in the papers, the charge must be most beneficial to the ship-builders of British North America. The official visit of Monsieur de Belvèze, in a French vessel of war, inspired some expectation of a more liberal commercial system. The visit was curious

in itself, and suggestive of deep reflection, as being the first outward manifestation on this side of the Atlantic of the alliance between two great nations, so long at enmity one with another and now so happily united.

When I visited Canada in 1850 on public business, there were in existence about 25 miles of railway. There are now open and at work the following lines:

	Miles.	
Brockville to Montreal	132	Grand Trunk Railway.
Montreal and Portland to boundary line	128*	
Quebec to St. Thomas	34	
Quebec to St. Richmond	96	
	390	
Niagara Falls to Windsor	229	Great Western Railway.
Toronto to Hamilton	38	
Fairchild's Creek to Galt	12	
Galt to Preston	3	
	282	
Toronto to Collingwood	94	Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railway.
Buffalo, Brantford, and Goderich (open to Paris)	84	
Ottawa to Prescott	54	
Cobourg to Peterboro'	28	
Montreal and Lachine	8	
Champlain and St. Lawrence	44	
Lanoraie, Bertheir, and Rawdon	24	
Montreal and Plattsburgh to boundary line	39	
	1,047	

The transit trade from Illinois and Michigan of beasts and pigs through Western Canada to the State of New York is very large, and the increase of the city of Hamilton alone is sufficient to show the nature of the trade which feeds it.

The following is extracted from the public papers as illustrating the progress of this line of railway.

" Great Western Railway Audit Office,
" Hamilton, 10th November 1855.

" Comparative Statement of Traffic for the week ending 9th November 1855.

" Number of Passengers	15,206
" Number same period last year	11,862
" Receipts for Passengers	£9,249 17 11¾
" Receipts same period last year	£6,806 19 9¾
" Receipts for Freight	£5,713 11 7
" Receipts same period last year	£2,421 3 0
" Receipts for Sundries	£383 17 2
" Receipts same period last year	£359 7 11
" Total Receipts	£15,347 8 8¾
" Total same period last year	£9,587 8 8¾
" Number of miles open	241
" Number same period last year	241
" Total Number of Passengers	214,612
" Total same period last year	168,504½
" Total traffic since 1st August 1855	£179,547 4 2
" Total same period last year	£108,879 10 6¾

" (Signed) Geo. Dartnell.

* The Grand Trunk Railway extends to Portland, 171 miles beyond the boundary line, through the state of Maine; this might very fairly be added to the above, making the Total 1,218.

CANADA.

" It is reported that there is now in store in Chicago, or in transitu for the " sea-board *viâ* Detroit, 700,000 bushels of wheat, which have been purchased " on account of the French Government."

You are aware, Sir, of the decrease in the number of emigrants arrived in the course of this season as compared with the last. The following table shows how the account stood on the 30th of September last.

RETURN of the Number of Emigrants arrived at Quebec during the Years 1853 and 1854 and to the 30th September 1855.

WHENCE.	1853.	1854.	30th Sep. 1855.
England - -	9,585	18,175	6,099
Ireland - -	14,417	16,168	4,088
Scotland - -	4,745	6,446	4,679
Germany - -	2,400	5,688	3,838
Norway - -	5,056	5,849	1,581
Lower Ports - -	496	857	650
	36,699	53,183	20,935

RETURN of the Number of Emigrants arrived at Quebec to the 30th September for the Years 1853, 1854, and 1855.

WHENCE.	1853.	1854.	1855.
England - -	8,676	16,809	6,099
Ireland - -	13,896	13,375	4,088
Scotland - -	4,651	5,463	4,679
Germany - -	2,400	5,321	3,838
Norway - -	4,605	5,696	1,581
Lower Ports - -	441	711	650
	34,669	47,375	20,935

If I may judge by the returns published in the newspapers, the decrease of emigrants in the ports of the United States has been still larger in proportion.

There remain two subjects of considerable importance which I feel bound to notice in this despatch:—the working of the Reciprocity Treaty, and the condition and prospects of the native population in Canada.

With regard to the former, the following tables, marked respectively A, B, C, will give a good deal of information. They are necessarily imperfect, and exhibit but a small portion of the year, so that no very positive conclusions can be drawn from them.

(A.)—EXPORTS.

STATEMENT showing the Quantity and Value of Articles declared Free by the Reciprocity Treaty, Exported from Canada to the United States during the Years 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, and for the Half Year ending 5th July 1855.

ARTICLES.	1850.		1851.		1852.		1853.		1854.		Half Year of 1855.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Animals - - - No.	27,674	84,575 15 7	33,731	91,118 8 6	39,762	87,194 9 6	59,740	143,378 19 6	27,320	103,500 3 4	11,458	63,737 11 0
Ashes - - - Brls.	15,600	110,620 4 0	2,183	14,206 2 5	6,700	46,875 6 2	3,850	25,727 19 9	3,570	27,129 9 11	2,370	16,497 0 3
Butter - - - Cwts.	4,263	11,724 11 8	6,030	14,052 10 2	25,140	98,660 19 10	12,110	42,688 7 6	6,500	29,260 1 6	3,990	19,994 17 5
Cheese - - - „	1	2 8 1	2	4 4 6	40	82 8 6	45	139 16 3	45	139 17 3	9	28 17 6
Eggs - - - Doz.	387,343	6,448 15 0	610,260	13,228 14 2	697,671	17,938 14 0	741,964	18,526 9 5	214,174	5,731 6 1	163,590	5,268 7 1
Fruit - - - -	—	519 2 7	—	476 11 8	—	785 15 7	—	2,040 8 6	—	697 18 10	—	131 5 0
Fish - - - Cwts.	13,300	7,717 7 10	20,700	10,932 7 10	22,070	11,035 6 6	37,500	18,324 7 5	41,250	21,107 19 9	21,120	10,589 4 8
Fish Oil - - - Galls.	120	18 10 9	100	13 14 0	15,370	1,537 0 0	250	31 5 0	2,080	260 3 6	17,160	2,425 0 0
Flour - - - Brls.	344,720	362,865 17 7	287,580	289,785 16 6	416,000	415,941 5 0	412,200	556,840 9 11	491,475	842,579 17 5	306,311	688,406 10 4
Furs and Skins - - -	—	15,964 10 2	—	19,823 5 7	—	15,594 16 7	—	21,020 16 11	—	13,366 15 6	—	7,272 0 0
Grain - - - Bush.	1,949,130	299,400 12 2	1,388,046	183,281 16 5	2,466,262	378,025 1 2	3,022,279	657,033 13 11	1,355,146	474,283 17 4	1,103,357	430,432 4 10
Hides - - - -	—	979 6 3	—	67 19 0	—	2,243 5 2	—	3,395 18 9	—	5,477 8 4	—	6,995 9 10
Horns - - - -	—	44 9 0	—	79 7 6	—	230 0 0	—	174 18 4	—	369 11 11	—	115 3 6
Lard - - - -	—	517 8 3	—	1,591 13 9	—	316 6 6	—	378 9 2	—	458 17 0	—	3,572 18 4
Manures - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,292 10 0	—	2,012 0 0	—	1,381 0 0
Meat of all Kinds - - Cwts.	1,100	1,689 10 6	724	1,230 16 10	9,500	6,257 11 3	6,940	10,251 7 9	4,900	8,317 11 6	1,750	3,266 7 2
Ores of Metal - - -	—	—	—	—	—	48 0 0	—	14,600 0 0	—	21,787 1 6	—	—
Rags - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,341 7 4	—	2,443 0 10	—	2,363 1 2
Seeds - - - Bush.	33,400	12,707 3 10	24,000	8,859 15 9	58,380	23,644 9 11	37,980	19,844 17 11	28,500	13,708 2 7	23,200	11,411 8 1
Stone, Unwrought - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,870 6 3	—	228 0 0
Tallow - - -	—	2,406 8 7	—	—	—	45 6 9	—	27 9 6	—	210 8 9	—	44 0 0
Trees and Shrubs - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	187 14 0
Timber and Lumber - M.F.	172,600	259,112 0 6	178,500	286,816 7 11	198,800	397,579 9 7	293,546	605,795 7 9	217,550	493,756 9 3	106,690	258,914 2 6
Tobacco, Unmanufactured - Lbs.	—	—	1,045	15 5 0	—	—	50,058	886 10 0	—	—	4,060	94 10 0
Vegetables - - -	—	1,353 14 11	—	1,832 18 0	—	1,007 7 3	—	599 18 10	—	907 19 6	—	16,187 19 2
Wool - - - Lbs.	276,991	14,214 15 8	403,100	19,759 17 6	387,874	18,576 4 10	423,000	41,389 6 7	122,570	7,559 15 6	189,690	15,079 16 0
Total - -	—	1,192,882 12 11	—	957,177 13 0	—	1,533,619 4 1	—	2,189,730 16 0	—	2,082,936 3 4	—	1,564,623 7 10

Inspector General's Office,
Customs Department, Quebec,
22d September 1855.

CANADA.

(B.)—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

STATEMENT showing the Quantity and Value of the Imports and Exports of Articles declared Free by the Reciprocity Treaty during the Half-year ending 5th July 1855.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Animals - - - No.	1,630	24,432 5 1	11,458	63,737 11 0
Ashes - - - Brls.	80	550 1 5	2,370	16,497 0 3
Burstone - - -	—	1,529 12 10	—	—
Broom Corn - -	—	1,850 14 0	—	—
Butter - - - Cwt.	520	2,107 7 11	3,990	19,994 17 5
Cheese - - - „	1,990	7,975 0 11	9	28 17 6
Coal - - - Tons	29,500	22,445 7 0	—	—
Cotton Wool - -	—	1,193 10 1	—	—
Flax, Hemp, and Tow -	—	8,020 17 8	—	—
Bark - - -	—	91 1 11	—	—
Fish - - - - Cwt.	—	8,877 6 0	21,120	10,589 4 8
Fish, products of - -	—	1,012 0 6	—	—
Fish Oil - - - Galls.	75,300	9,413 18 2	17,160	2,425 0 0
Fruit - - -	—	10,343 14 2	—	131 5 0
Furs and Skins, Undressed -	—	4,031 10 11	—	7,272 0 0
Flour - - - Brls.	51,840	116,940 3 0	306,311	688,406 10 4
Grain - - - Bush.	1,020,500	272,236 11 3	1,103,357	430,432 4 10
Gypsum - - -	—	2,094 12 9	—	—
Dye Stuffs - - -	—	2,748 2 7	—	—
Eggs - - - - Doz.	1,160	29 18 5	163,590	5,268 7 1
Hides - - -	—	20,945 7 7	—	6,995 9 10
Horns - - -	—	2 0 0	—	115 3 6
Lard - - -	—	18,679 4 10	—	3,572 18 4
Marble, Unwrought -	—	2,065 8 11	—	—
Manures - - -	—	2,034 1 0	—	1,380 0 0
Meat of all Kinds - - Cwt.	76,350	169,512 7 5	1,750	3,266 7 2
Pitch and Tar - - Brls.	2,500	1,271 14 8	—	—
Rags - - - - -	—	3 10 0	—	2,363 1 2
Rice - - - Cwt.	2,990	4,488 9 10	—	—
Seeds - - - - Bush.	—	22,191 5 9	23,200	11,411 8 1
Ores of Metal - -	—	16 0 0	—	—
Slate - - - - -	—	2,124 5 6	—	—
Stone, Unwrought - -	—	1,204 13 2	—	228 0 0
Tallow - - -	—	25,438 10 6	—	44 0 0
Trees and Shrubs - -	—	5,159 10 7	—	187 14 0
Timber and Lumber - M. F.	—	13,228 18 8	106,690	258,914 2 6
Tobacco, Unmanufactured - Lbs.	228,850	6,626 13 1	4,060	94 10 0
Turpentine - - -	—	579 1 10	—	—
Vegetables - -	—	872 2 9	—	16,187 19 2
Wool - - - - Lbs.	—	2,966 3 5	189,690	15,079 16 0
Total - - -	—	797,333 6 1	—	1,564,623 7 10

(C.)—IMPORTS.

STATEMENT showing the Value of Free Goods Imported into Canada during the Half Year ending 5th July 1855, compared with the corresponding Period of 1854, during which some of these Articles were chargeable with Duty, and showing the Rate of Duty charged thereon, also the Amount of Duty collected on Articles made free by Reciprocity Treaty.

ARTICLES.	1855.		1854.		Duty collected on Articles made free by Reciprocity Treaty.	Rate of Duty per Cent.	Authority for the Exemption.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.			
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Anatomical Preparations	—	25 10 0	—	801 11 10	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Anchors	(*)	1,794 8 9	—	3,030 16 9	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Animals	—	25,070 5 5	—	14,091 0 0	1,000 0 0	20 and Free.	18 Vict. c. 5. and 12 Vict. c. 5.
Ashes	—	550 1 5	—	46 13 0	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Books	—	61,541 0 9	—	60,367 9 7	—	„	
Book-binders' Tools	—	103 3 3	—	—	—	12½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Bristles	—	748 0 9	—	53 9 5	—	2½	
Burstones, unwrought	—	446 6 6	—	763 6 4	19 1 8	„	
Bunting	—	5 0 0	—	—	—	12½	
Broom Corn	—	1,850 14 0	—	1,021 8 0	25 10 8	2½	
Busts and Casts	—	482 12 5	—	221 13 3	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Butter Cwt.	520	2,107 7 11	—	38 8 1	7 13 8	20	18 Vict. c. 1.
Cabinets of Coins	—	—	—	—	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Caoutchouc	—	3,073 17 3	—	—	—	12½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Cheese	—	8,965 0 10	—	3,405 12 0	681 2 5	20	
Coal and Coke Tons	36,500	29,772 19 9	56,500	35,745 9 1	693 12 6	2½	
Copper	(*)	2,825 5 1	—	7,382 5 0	—	„	
Cordage	(*)	18,472 9 1	—	44,924 3 9	—	„	
Cotton and Flax Waste	—	806 15 8	—	796 17 5	—	„	
Cotton Wool	—	1,193 10 1	—	2,475 15 10	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Chain Cables	(*)	2,038 4 2	—	21,464 4 0	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Donations	—	38 5 0	—	48 0 0	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Drawings	—	5,985 8 8	—	3,637 7 8	—	„	
Dye Stuffs	—	2,148 2 7	—	3,758 11 10	75 0 0	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Farming Implements	—	321 10 0	—	166 6 8	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Felt Sheeting	—	1,583 18 6	—	2,249 4 0	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Fire Clay	—	205 6 5	—	248 1 1	—	„	
Flax, Hemp, and Tow	(*)	9,065 17 8	—	19,766 14 0	325 0 0	2½	
Fruit, Green	—	9,581 15 10	—	5,033 18 2	1,510 [illegible] 6	30	
Flour Brls.	51,870	111,002 6 4	150	219 10 2	43 18 1	20	
Grain Bush.	1,020,500	272,236 11 3	535,250	118,425 8 10	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Grease and Scraps	—	5,056 8 7	—	7,604 12 6	190 2 4	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Hay	—	102 18 0	—	—	—	12½	
Hides	—	20,945 7 7	—	38,780 6 6	969 10 3	2½	
Indigo	—	3,021 19 0	—	6,701 4 4	15 0 0	„	
Junk and Oakum	(*)	900 12 2	—	5,226 15 2	—	2½	
Lard	—	18,679 4 10	—	5,850 6 10	146 5 2	„	
Lead	—	2,014 2 9	—	2,737 13 3	—	„	
Marble, unpolished	—	2,065 8 11	—	1,261 18 6	31 11 0	„	
Marine Cement	—	914 14 6	—	311 15 8	—	„	
Maps	—	2,128 3 2	—	1,311 5 6	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Manures	—	2,034 1 0	—	3,265 15 3	—	„	
Meal	—	6,054 9 9	—	551 15 6	18 0 0	20	
Meat of all kinds	—	47,533 4 5	—	4,200 1 4	840 0 3	„	18 Vict. c. 5.
Mess Pork Brls.	30,490	121,979 3 0	15,120	45,125 0 2	5,640 12 6	12½	
Military Clothing	—	188 13 4	—	776 18 0	—	Free.	
Military Stores	—	49 0 0	—	—	—	„	
Models	—	327 1 8	—	111 2 0	—	„	12 Vict. c. 1.
Naval Stores	—	4 5 0	—	—	—	„	
Oil, Cocoa Nut, Palm, and Pine	—	4,668 6 10	—	2,391 6 0	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Ores of Metals	—	16 0 0	—	213 0 0	—	„	
Philosophical Instruments	—	225 5 0	—	1,114 4 9	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Pig Iron	—	14,631 10 6	—	59,651 0 2	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Pipe-clay	—	133 10 6	—	296 19 10	—	„	
Pitch and Tar Brls.	(*) 2,500	1,271 14 8	3,840	1,920 19 7	35 0 0	„	
Printing Materials	—	11,223 1 9	—	5,509 8 9	—	„	
Rags	—	3 10 0	—	—	—	12½	
Resin and Rosin Brls.	(*) 1,400	371 1 7	9,600	2,486 13 10	—	2½	
Russia Hemp Yarn	—	83 7 7	—	—	—	„	
Salt Bush.	337,500	12,424 19 7	371,670	10,911 15 8	—	Free.	16 Vict. c. 85.
Saw Logs	—	1,052 10 2	—	154 0 0	3 17 0	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Seeds	—	23,585 5 9	—	22,741 6 0	—	Free.	16 Vict. c 85.

(*) All these articles are chiefly used in ship-building, and the falling off may be in a great measure attributed to the great stagnation of the trade.

ARTICLES.	1855.		1854.		Duty collected on Articles made free by Reciprocity Treaty.	Rate of Duty per Cent.	Authority for the Exemption.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.			
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Sail Cloth	(*)	5,760 0 10	—	13,725 9 0	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Settlers Goods	—	45,221 12 0	—	35,833 7 0	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Ships Water Casks	—	9 10 0	—	—	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Soda Ash	—	2,407 19 4	—	3,994 11 10	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Specimens	—	74 16 6	—	92 6 3	—	„	
Tallow	—	25,438 10 6	—	19,216 10 11	480 8 3	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Teasles	—	9 13 5	—	—	—	„	
Trees and Shrubs	—	5,159 10 7	—	11,387 16 9	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Type Metal in Blocks	—	832 17 1	—	—	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Treenails	—	558 15 2	—	—	—	12½	
Wine for Officers Mess	—	—	—	662 7 7	—	Free.	13 & 14 Vict. c. 5.
Wool	—	2,966 3 5	—	5,853 13 11	146 6 10	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Varnish, Black and Bright	—	229 17 5	—	12 5 0	—	„	
Yellow Metal	—	2,001 10 10	—	—	—	12½	
Veneers	—	523 11 4	—	—	—	12½	
Wood for Carpenters Tools	—	27 0 0	—	—	—	2½	
Other Articles	—	19,381 13 4	—	18,040 14 9	—	—	
Articles not herein-before enumerated and admitted free from United States only under Reciprocity Treaty:							
Bark	—	91 1 11	—	—	—	12½	18 Vict. c. 1.
Burstones, Wrought	—	1,083 6 4	—	—	—	„	
Eggs	—	29 18 5	—	—	—	„	
Fish	—	8,877 6 1	—	7,042 16 2	880 7 1	„	
Fish Oil	—	9,413 18 2	—	—	—	„	
Fish, Products of	—	1,012 0 6	—	—	—	„	
Firewood	—	2,945 11 10	—	—	—	„	
Furs and Skins, Undressed	—	4,031 10 11	—	—	—	2½	
Fruit, Dried	—	1,687 18 4	—	—	—	30	
Gypsum	—	2,094 12 9	—	—	—	Free.	
Horns	—	2 0 0	—	—	—	12½	
Rice	—	4,488 9 10	—	5,094 19 9	636 17 6	„	
Slate	—	2,124 5 6	—	—	—	„	
Stone, Unwrought	—	1,204 13 2	—	—	—	„	
Timber and Lumber	—	10,283 6 10	—	5,789 17 5	723 14 8	„	
Turpentine	—	579 1 10	—	—	—	„	
Tobacco, Unmanufactured Lbs.	228,850	6,626 13 2	—	—	—	12½ and ½ per lb.	
Vegetables	—	872 2 8	—	346 8 4	43 6 1	12½	
Articles, the Produce or Manufacture of Great Britain or of the British North American Provinces, when imported direct:							
Biscuit and Bread	—	304 14 2	—	183 13 5	—	—	12 Vict. c. 1.
Cocoa Paste	—	91 17 3	—	26 10 9	—	—	
Fish Oil	—	—	—	4,865 7 4	—	—	
Fish, Fresh and Salted	—	2,838 5 4	—	3,268 2 2	—	—	
Furs and Skins	—	279 6 4	—	6,562 3 9	—	—	
Pelts and Skins, Undressed	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Gypsum	—	150 0 0	—	—	—	—	
Horns	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Vegetables	—	74 10 0	—	—	—	—	
Wood	—	123 0 0	—	—	—	—	
Total	—	1,049,643 9 10	—	723,389 12 11	15,182 0 5	—	

Upon the whole, I have heard of no practical difficulties of any consequence in connection with the fisheries, and I have every reason to believe that the treaty has hitherto been working advantageously for all parties. I ought, perhaps, to advert for a moment to Sir George Grey's dispatch of October 19th, No. 46., enclosing a copy of the opinion of the law officers with regard to the observance of local laws and regulations by American fishermen. I was aware, some time since, of the terms of Mr. Marcy's circular, to which this opinion relates, but I did not call special attention to it, only because I never doubted for one moment the principle now laid down by Her Majesty's law officers; viz., that American fishermen, exercising their calling under the treaty in British waters, were amenable to the same laws as British subjects. I mentioned the point, indeed, some time ago to the Attorney General for Lower Canada, and I then professed my intention of asserting the same sovereign rights over British and American fishermen in every case, as a matter nowise depending on the stipulations of the treaty, but as an ordinary incident of the full 'dominium' enjoyed by the Queen in British waters.

In a despatch dated 24th January 1855 (No. 11.) Sir George Grey was pleased to observe, with reference to Indian matters: "But before adopting a "conclusion on the practical questions which it (Mr. Oliphant's Report) "suggests, I shall await the communication of the opinions which you may "form after you shall have had an opportunity of giving it your consideration."

I have, in consequence of what was there said, endeavoured to obtain the best possible information, and to consider the least objectionable means of gradually effacing from the Estimates of the Imperial Parliament all and any charges for the Indians of Canada. In doing this, I have given full weight to the propositions made by Mr. Oliphant in his report to Lord Elgin, and I am prepared to say that I think the scheme set forth by Lord Bury in the annexed Report* would be more effectual in itself, and more satisfactory in every way, than the contingent expiration of the charge at the end of seven or eight years as proposed by Mr. Oliphant. In the first place, in order to assume that the charge would so expire, we must suppose that all went perfectly smooth,—that the Sangeen Islands turned out as good and as valuable as it is hoped they will, and that the surveys, the sales, and the payments, all were made and effected at the precise moments anticipated. How little any such uninterrupted success is to be anticipated, we may judge by the attempt to commence the sales this autumn, which has failed, as I believe, by the neglect, if not the wilful misconduct, of one of our surveyors. This delay alone will postpone the first receipts from this large tract for eight months or more.

There is no necessity for my explaining the details of Lord Bury's scheme, which he has set forth himself, and to which I earnestly solicit the attention of Her Majesty's advisers.

If this plan were adopted, a sum of 80,000*l.* representing the average payment for (say) seven years, would have to be voted by the Imperial Parliament, and invested in Six per cent. Canadian debentures in the name of some official trustees in England, and the interest would be paid to the Indian Department here in perpetuity. The result of such an investment would be the immediate and entire disappearance of the charge from the Estimates of the House of Commons,—not merely its expiration at the end of eight or ten years, as contingent on the success of certain sales and transfers of property in this country. Whether it is worth the while of Great Britain to purchase the redemption of the charge at such a price, it is for Her Majesty's Government to judge. I approach the whole subject with pain and misgiving, because I never feel quite confident of the possibility of reconciling the perfect good faith of England towards the aborigines with the natural wish of the Queen's Government to effect the abolition of all charge on the Imperial Revenue, a course which I know to be, in the abstract, right and desirable in every way. This misgiving in my own mind makes me perhaps catch at an expedient which neither a British Government nor a British House of Commons may deem admissible; but such as it is, I submit it to your consideration, and I shall be ready to do my utmost to carry out that or any other course of policy which may appear best adapted for obtaining the same results.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND HEAD.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

* This Report is omitted, on account of its volume, to be printed with the present collection.

NOVA SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

[*The usual Annual Report for* 1854 *has not been received from the Province of Nova Scotia.*]

NEW BRUNSWICK.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Honourable J. H. T. Manners Sutton to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere, Esq., M.P.

(No. 39.) Government House, Fredericton,
New Brunswick, November 30, 1855.

Sir, (Received January 1, 1856.)

1. I have the honour herewith to forward to you in duplicate the Blue Book of this province for 1854.

2. The greater portion of that year had already passed when I arrived in the province, and I fear, therefore, that my explanatory observations on the returns now submitted to you will be less full than I could desire.

3. I shall, in the first instance, lay before you a short statement of the general course of events in the province during the year 1854, and I shall then proceed to notice in succession the returns in the Blue Book which appear to me to require explanation or remark.

4. It affords me much satisfaction to state that the public revenue of the province for 1854 rose to an amount unprecedented in any former year. The flourishing condition of the finances is mainly attributable to the fact that during the spring unusually large quantities of dutiable articles were either laid in or ordered, in the expectation that the ensuing season would be one of great commercial prosperity; but I regret to say that these expectations were not realized; and in this instance, therefore, the revenue tables for the year do not, by themselves, afford a complete test of the general condition of the province during the whole of the year to which they refer.

5. At the commencement of the year 1854, wood and ships, the staple exports of the province, were in great demand at highly remunerative prices; the money market was easy, and, although even then the necessaries of life had risen in value, this rise was fully counterbalanced by the increased rate of wages, which labour of every description commanded.

6. Trade and commerce flourished in every part of the province, and the industry of the people found full and profitable employment. A stimulus was thus given to the consumption, and a still greater stimulus to the importation of dutiable articles, and every preparation was made in the spring for the conduct of an extensive trade both in imports and exports, during the summer and autumn, from which large profits were expected.

7. A series of events however occurred, in succession, which frustrated these expectations. The first in order of these events was, the appearance of the cholera in the province. The cholera broke out in St. John in the course of the summer, and extended itself to some other parts of the province. The disease caused many deaths wherever it appeared, but it was at St. John, where it first broke out, that it raged with the greatest violence, and occasioned the greatest mortality. The alarm was general, and numbers of people left the city; the ship-yards were deserted, and every species of industry was suspended. The pestilence was happily of short duration, but confidence was not restored until some time after the cholera had subsided, and the trade of St. John, especially the internal trade, suffered a blow from which it did not recover during the remainder of the year.

8. In the autumn, moreover, the value of wood and of ships materially fell, and money became scarce. No failures of any importance occurred in this

province; but the stability of the commercial houses here was no doubt, in many instances, severely tested, and the year which was ushered in with the promise of unusual prosperity terminated in a period of gloom and commercial depression.

9. Nor should I omit to say that the agricultural crops for the year were generally light, or at least the amount of agricultural produce raised was considerably below the average.

10. The season was, I believe, in some respects an unfavorable one, and the potato crop especially, which is a crop of great importance here, was extensively tainted by disease. But I entertain no doubt that the deficiency in the harvest of 1854 was, in part at least, to be attributed to causes unconnected with the season. The temptations which lumbering occupations held out to farmers at the commencement of the year led, I believe, to a diminution far below the average of the breadth of land cropped in the spring, and the high rate of wages which prevailed during the summer probably contributed still further to reduce the amount of labour employed in the culture of the lands. However this may be, the price of the principal necessaries of life during the winter was unusually high, and considerable distress prevailed in different parts of the province, and especially in those districts where lumbering pursuits had diverted the attention of the rural population from agriculture.

11. A general review then of the course of events here in 1854 will show that year to have been one of disappointment, if not of actual distress. The occurrences of the year prescribe to the commercial classes caution, and to the agricultural population a more constant attention to agricultural pursuits, but I see no reason whatever to believe that the progress of the province in prosperity has received any material check.

12. The foregoing observations on the general financial condition of the province preclude the necessity for my offering any observations on the returns in the Blue Book which relate to the revenue and expenditure.

13. But the "public debt" of the province requires some remarks. The funded debt, as thus set forth, amounts to 81,360*l.* (currency), the unfunded debt to 94,834*l.* (currency), making in all a total amount of debt of 176,194*l.* (currency). But it is not the amount of the debt (although that is considerable when taken in relation to the annual revenue of the province), but the character of the unfunded debt and the manner in which it has been incurred, which suggest matter for the most serious consideration.

14. A very large proportion at least, if not the whole, of the unfunded debt consists of accumulated deficiencies in former years, arising from an excess of the current expenditure over the revenue of the year; and it is impossible to regard as satisfactory an arrangement whereby the whole of the deposits in the savings banks, which fluctuate in amount and are liable to be withdrawn at call, form the sole means at the disposal of the Government for meeting a debt of more than 90,000*l.* (currency.)

15. Moreover the existence of a system whereby the excess of expenditure over income during any one year does not necessarily call for any special or particular provision in the succeeding year to meet the new liabilities thus incurred, affords of itself an inducement to disregard those sound principles of financial economy, on the observance of which financial prosperity mainly depends.

16. I have called the attention of my council to this subject, and I trust that some remedy will be applied to the evils which I have briefly noticed. But I cannot conclude my observations on this question without declaring my full concurrence in the opinion so frequently expressed by my predecessor, Sir Edmund Head, that the financial system of this province will never rest on a sound foundation until the executive government is rendered responsible for the introduction of money votes.

17. The next point to which I desire to call your attention is the "Public Works." I regret to say that difficulties have arisen which have impeded the progress of the two lines of railway commenced in this province. I trust that means may be found to remove these impediments and to provide for the gradual but continuous construction of the works. This subject is now under the consideration of the government, but I need scarcely say that a sound financial system is a very important condition to the successful prosecution of

NEW BRUNSWICK.

public works, the construction of which will require large sums of money, and test the stability of the financial credit of the province.

18. It is unnecessary for me to offer any remarks on the character or purport of the various Acts passed by the legislature of the province in 1854. These Acts have been fully explained by my predecessor and by myself, in the despatches which accompanied them when they were transmitted to the Secretary of State. But I may be permitted to express my conviction that the benefits which will be derived by this province from the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, to which effect was given by an Act passed in the second session of the year 1854, will be found fully to realize the most sanguine expectations of those by whose exertions this arrangement was effected.

19. In the course of the year 1854 a commission was issued (under an Act of Assembly passed for that purpose), by Sir Edmund Head, for inquiring into the state of King's College. The report of the commissioners was laid before me at the conclusion of that year, and was by my directions communicated to both branches of the legislature early in 1855. The subject, however, to which the report refers is one of great difficulty as well as importance. No legislative action has as yet been taken upon it, and I think that the legislature acted wisely in taking time fully to consider the question in all its different bearings. In a community circumstanced as this is there is a natural preference for practical as distinguished from scientific acquirements. But science is the true foundation of practical knowledge, and it would be, in my judgment, most erroneous to suppose that the cultivation of general literature has not a beneficial effect on the tone and character, and even on the material progress of a people; I should therefore view with deep regret the extinction of the provincial collegiate institution. But I am aware that, in the opinion of the public (and in this opinion I am compelled to concur), King's College has not hitherto afforded to the province in general all those benefits which might have been expected from it. I trust that means may be found to remove the existing defects in the college, whether these defects are to be found in its constitution or in the course of education pursued within its walls, and that a system may be devised suited to the present circumstances of the province, and at the same time affording to the youth of the province the full advantages of a liberal collegiate education.

I have, &c.

To the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, Esq., M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 3.

No. 3.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hamilton to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 157.)

Government House, Newfoundland, April 26, 1855.

(Received May 21, 1855.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Government for the year 1854.

Exports and Imports.

The revenue derived from duties on imports is nearly the same as that received in the previous year.

The alterations which the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America will render necessary will involve a relinquishment of 20,000*l.*, more than a fourth of the revenue, and which will have to be made up either by increased duties on articles already taxed, or by an export duty. I am informed that the former will be the probable course; and it may be feared that the consequent result of high duties will be manifested in increased smuggling,

which, on a long line of coast indented with numerous harbours, it will be difficult with our present limited means to prevent.

The imports in the year were 964,527*l.*, against 912,895*l.* of the previous year, showing an increase of upwards of 50,000*l.*, arising, however, from increased cost rather than increased quantity.

The exports were 1,019,572*l.*, against 1,170,503*l.*, showing a falling off of nearly 151,000*l.*; and the exports show a considerably smaller excess over imports than in previous years, the excess in 1854 being only about 55,000*l.*, whereas in the previous year it was nearly 260,000*l.*, and the excess generally has been little short of 200,000*l.*

Cholera, Visitation of, in the Autumn.

In the month of August last, the weather being, as is usual at that season, most beautiful, and the public health good, the cholera suddenly appeared in St. John's, and after two or three fatal cases, and then an intermission of six weeks, the disease swept over the town, carrying off in its ravages upwards of 500 persons, out of a population of 21,000. Mercifully, the disease did not extend to the outports, although some cases, the seeds of which had been sown in this town, occurred in the woods and out-settlements, and were attended by the most afflicting circumstances. This is the first time Newfoundland has been invaded by this terrible disease, and its victims were almost entirely from among the humbler classes. Although the visitation has caused a considerable addition to the public debt, it did not even at the time affect the trade of the colony.

New York, Newfoundland, and London Electric Telegraph Company.

This undertaking, to which I adverted in my last year's Report, was commenced last summer, but is not yet finished, although considerable progress has been made. From the universal interest taken in the advancement of communication by means of the electric telegraph, the work in question, interrupted by the winter season, is not likely to remain long in an incomplete state. The agent of the Company here informs me that that portion of the general line which runs from St. John's across the island for upwards of 200 miles to Cape Ray, and thence by submarine cable to the continent of America, will probably be completed by October, but certainly before the end of this year. And it has been confidently asserted that batteries will be constructed of sufficient force to transmit messages across the Atlantic to this port, thus superseding altogether the employment of steamers in this service.

Reference to the recent Change in the Form of Government of Newfoundland, and its bearing, in one important respect, upon the Condition of the Colony.

In the history of Newfoundland the year 1854 will be considered the most important it has witnessed since its settlement, nearly four centuries ago, as being the year in which the system of government in force in the other North American colonies was, after long-continued agitation, introduced into this oldest dependency of the Crown.

When in 1832 a representative constitution was first conceded to the colony, the Roman Catholics, although a minority of the population, obtained more than their share in the representation; and, fearing the consequences of this error when the controlling power of an independent Governor and Council should be withdrawn, the Protestants have always been opposed to responsible government, except upon the representation being first adjusted.

This difficulty having been in a great measure removed by the passing, in the last session, of an increased Representation Bill, responsible government may now be considered as fairly established; and whether it will be productive of advantage to the people of Newfoundland is a problem which time will solve.

In one important respect its results will, I earnestly hope, be beneficial, by reason of the necessity which it will impose on the leaders of the people of

NEWFOUNDLAND

repressing the growth of voluntary pauperism. During the last few years, taking occasion by the real distress produced by the potato blight (the potato being the sole article of subsistence exacted from this sterile soil), and by the partial fisheries, the system of poor-relief from the public funds has been urged on by the representatives who were opposed to the Government party, with an immediate view at once to their own popularity and to the disparagement of the Executive, and has advanced in a frightful degree.

Some idea of the extent of this enormous evil may be formed when it is considered, that in the past year, in the district of St. John's, nearly every fifth person received relief during the winter months, and that the expenditure for the poor for the whole island amounted to a fourth part of the whole revenue.

Under the new order of things those who are the popular leaders will want at least one motive for encouraging this evil, and will find it necessary to the very existence of their Government to adopt some method by which its progress may be stayed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DALY to Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart.

(No. 64.)

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
27th October 1855.

SIR, (Received Nov. 19, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the "Blue Book" for 1854, in duplicate.

In reporting upon the general condition of the colony, I am happy to be enabled to point to the progressive improvement of the revenue as evidence of prosperity; and although the serious depression under which the commercial world has suffered for some time may, and probably will, affect the revenue of the current year, I do not anticipate such a decrease as will embarrass the financial affairs of the Island.

The following comparative statement of revenue and expenditure, for three years, shows, that in 1854 the revenue amounted to 46,033*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, being considerably in advance of that of any previous year.

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1852 -	31,283	9	0	22,285	0	1
1853 -	35,345	3	5	29,433	6	5
1854 -	46,033	11	6	55,926	17	2

With reference to the expenditure of 1854, which is stated to be 55,926*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, it is necessary to explain, that this amount includes the balance against the colony of the previous year, amounting to 3,028*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, and 18,000*l.* paid on account of the purchase of the Worrell Estate, which items are not fairly chargeable as expenditure of 1854. The latter sum will ultimately be reimbursed to the Government from the sale of the property. Deducting these two sums, the expenditure will be 34,898*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure for the year of not less than 11,135*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

The annexed comparative statement of ships built in the colony for a like period shows a large increase in 1854; but although considerable activity still

prevails in that branch of industry, I anticipate a falling-off in the result of the current year's operations.

SHIPS built in Years 1852, 1853, and 1854.

——	Number exceeding 200 Tons.	Exceeding 100 and not exceeding 200.	All others under 100 Tons.	Gross Amounts of Tonnage.
1852 -	12	32	30	10,104
1853 -	21	32	23	13,340
1854 -	52	34	20	24,111

The value and outward freight of new ships may be added to the exports of the colony. They are for the most part sent to England for sale, a few only of 100 to 200 tons finding a ready sale at Newfoundland, and are employed in the fisheries.

The comparatively limited quantity of large merchantable timber which this island produces exempts the mercantile community in a great degree from the fluctuations in the timber trade which are occasionally so severely felt in neighbouring provinces; and the commerce of this colony is therefore more restricted, and influenced by its agricultural operations, with which it is completely interwoven.

This island is essentially agricultural, and although its resources as a fishing station are boundless, the fisheries have not hitherto attracted any considerable number of the inhabitants to that pursuit.

There is no portion of these provinces better suited to the production of most kinds of grain, esculants, and green crops of all kinds.

The Royal Agricultural Society, founded in 1849, aided by liberal grants from the local Legislature, has done much, by the introduction of improved breeds of horses, cattle, seeds, and implements of husbandry, towards the improvement of agricultural operations generally; whilst the industry of the farmer is stimulated by high prices, and the unbounded market for his produce of all sorts that has been opened to him by "The Reciprocity Treaty."

Emigration to this colony has been very limited for many years; and considering the many natural advantages it possesses, its fertile generous soil, market facilities, and remarkable salubrity of climate, I can only attribute the circumstance to the same cause which has retarded the improvement of the colony in every respect, viz., the early improvident grants of the Crown lands to a non-resident proprietary, which has placed the wilderness lands in the hands of private individuals, who hold them for disposal by lease, or on conditions of sale in excess of the terms at which similar lands are sold in the neighbouring provinces.

The partial success of the proprietors in settling their lands with a tenantry class gave them an exaggerated estimate of their value, which in all new countries is so greatly derived from the labour bestowed upon them. The result for the most part has been disappointment to all the parties concerned. Yet, even now, it appears to be difficult to convince the landlords, nearly all of whom are absentees, that a leasehold system cannot prosper on this side of the Atlantic, and that their pecuniary interests would be best served by the sale of their wild lands at rates not exceeding the prices paid for similar lands in the neighbouring colonies.

The Land Purchase Bill, which is now fairly in operation, has placed a considerable portion of excellent land at the disposal of the Government, which is sold at prices varying according to quality from 5*s.* to 12*s* 6*d.* per acre, the same lands not having been obtainable from the former proprietor at less than one to two pounds per acre.

I am not without hope that the proprietors generally are gradually arriving at the conviction that sound policy demands their adoption of some means for the more speedy sale and settlement of their estates.

It is asserted, and I believe truly, that very many of the youth of the country have emigrated to the neighbouring colonies and to the United States, from the difficulties presented here to the acquisition of freehold property on reason-

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able terms, and their disinclination to submit to the leasehold tenure on any terms whatever.

An excellent system of common school education has been established in this island, and is giving very general satisfaction.

For the moderate annual payment of 6*s*. 8*d*. currency, the occupant of 100 acres can send all his children to school, and the occupant of 50 acres derives the same advantage from a payment of 3*s*. 4*d*., without any further charge than a small amount for books and fuel.

An Act was passed in the last Legislative Session for the establishment of a normal school for teachers, and I am now in communication with Mr. Stow, of Glasgow, for the purpose of procuring a properly qualified master to conduct it. When this latter school shall have gone into operation, the facilities for common school education will be found not inferior to those afforded in any portion of British North America, and admirably calculated to meet the requirements of a population where the just appreciation of the advantages of education is happily making considerable progress.

On the withdrawal of the detachment of Her Majesty's troops, I took the earliest opportunity of bringing the subject under the consideration of the Legislature with a view to supplying its place; and the result has been the enactment of a law to impose a rate upon the rent-rolls of certain proprietors, the proceeds to be applied to the maintenance of such force as might be found necessary.

All the arrangements practicable for this purpose have been made, and Her Majesty's confirmation of the Bill which I had the honour of transmitting for that purpose (with my Despatch of the 29th May, No. 19.) is alone wanting to their completion, and the establishment of a corps of pensioners, selected from those previously resident in this Island, as well as from the pensioners recently arrived here from the Newfoundland companies.

Measures are also in progress for the enrolment of volunteer corps, and for perfecting the rolls and fixing the limits of the several battalions and companies of the militia, which hitherto had never been accurately defined.

The population, according to the census which has just been completed (an abstract of which will be found in the Blue Book that I have now the honour of transmitting), amounts to 71,496 souls, showing an increase upon the census of 1848, of not more than 8,818 in six years.

To the same cause which impedes immigration and settlement must be attributed this slow progress of population, which contrasts so unfavourably with other portions of British America, and even with those possessing far inferior natural advantages.

The political condition of this Colony may be said to be very satisfactory. I am not aware of any instance in which the principles of "Responsible Government" have been so severely tested as in their application to the government of this Island.

In the absence of all preparation, by municipal institutions or otherwise, with a population so little advanced in numbers and wealth, there was much to justify the apprehensions for its success that were entertained on its introduction into this Colony. A minority too, who had had most experience in departmental administration, under the old system, resisted its operation with extreme tenacity, on the same grounds.

The loyalty, good sense, and moderation of the people, however, have triumphed over all these difficulties; and I have much satisfaction in believing that, as they become practically aware of the advantages they enjoy under the present system, they desire nothing more than its legitimate application in the administration of the Provincial Government.

In conclusion, Sir, I am happy to be able to assure you of the progressive prosperity and the perfect tranquillity of the Colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. DALY,
Lieutenant Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

No. 5.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Murray to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 55.)

Bermuda, June 20, 1855.

My Lord, (Received July 31, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1854.

There is nothing calling for particular remark in the circumstances of the colony, except that the cultivators of the soil are extending their operations and improving their mode of culture in a very satisfactory manner. Several ships of a superior class, both as to tonnage and construction, have lately been built, and that branch of industry is gradually developing itself and improving the new vessels both as to sailing qualities and in all other respects.

I regret to call your Lordship's attention to the extraordinary rise in the cost of the necessaries of life, which, although always very dear in these islands, have now reached an exorbitant price. Your Lordship will observe that bread has reached the extraordinary price of fivepence per pound. This is caused by the great rise in the American markets, on which this colony is in a great measure dependent for supplies of food. On the subject of the Report of the Colonial Secretary on the government houses, I cannot agree with that officer's views generally, for the following reasons :

1st. As to the locality of the house called Mount Langton, now occupied by the Governor. I must explain that it is only at one mile's distance from the public offices and the buildings where the legislative bodies hold their sittings, which are situated in the centre of the town of Hamilton, communicating by an excellent carriage road with Mount Langton, and by a shorter one for pedestrians. There is an excellent landing place for boats, a very general mode of transit in this cluster of islands, just under the house; but what renders the position the more eligible for the Governor's residence is, that it has a command of all the telegraphic stations in the different islands, by which means the Governor can at once communicate with them, and vice versâ. The interruption to public business caused by this distance cannot be very material, and the latter consideration points out this situation as the best that could be selected, the town and its immediate vicinity being shut out from the view of all the telegraphic stations except one.

Again, as to the grounds round the house, it appears that Sir Hilgrove Turner, when Governor, finding the grounds too confined, and the neighbouring grounds in too great proximity to Government House, purchased those lands himself, in order to add them to those already surrounding the house, and that on his leaving Bermuda the colony purchased the lands of him, in order to add them to the existing grounds, and subsequent Governors have much improved them. Should the colony determine upon building a new Government House, which is much needed, the above considerations would point out how advisable it would be to erect it on the same site, or on some spot close to it, within the present grounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREEMAN MURRAY,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

PART II.

WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.

No. 6.

No. 6.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. Barkly to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 59.)

King's House, May 21, 1855

My Lord, (Received June 29, 1855.)

In transmitting the Jamaica "Blue Book" for the year 1854, I feel myself spared the necessity of accompanying it with the more detailed report on the state and prospects of the colony, which might have been expected of me at the close of the first entire year in which I have administered its government, by the very full accounts already transmitted with the half-yearly reports of the stipendiary magistrates,* and the long description I have given of my tour* through a great part of the island last spring.

2. Since that time I have visited the remainder of the country, with the exception of four parishes on the south side, reserved for the ensuing autumn; and I may say generally that my views as then expressed have been confirmed, just as much on the one hand by what I saw in St. Thomas in the East, in which the finest and most flourishing sugar plantations are situated, as on the other by the retrogressive tendencies exhibited in St. George's and Portland, where the culture of the cane may be said to be wellnigh extinct.

3. Those views excited no small amount of attention out here upon the pub lication of my Despatch, which was reproduced in pamphlet form; and although the general correctness of the picture as therein delineated was not, so far as I am aware, called in question by anybody, some of my inferences and my anticipations were, as might have been expected, very severely handled by opposite parties, and upon widely different grounds.

4. That section of the press which claims to represent the "planting interest" found fault with me for having alleged that there was, when I wrote, a fair prospect of well-managed estates proving remunerative; whilst to those who assume to be the friends of the negro, I gave mortal offence, not so much by anything I stated against them,—for I am admitted to have been moderate enough in my strictures,—but for the want of faith which I manifested in the issue of the great experiment of emancipation, so far as Jamaica is concerned, except under very changed conditions.

5. Nothing was easier than to have propitiated the one side by enunciating the restoration of protecting duties as the sole panacea for the evils under which the island was suffering, or the other by declaring the supernatural tendencies of the African race towards the highest phase of civilization; but the less pleasing task of putting Her Majesty's Government in possession of the conscientious convictions I had formed from observation of actual facts devolved upon me, and I performed it then, as I shall endeavour to do in commenting upon the returns now sent, without fear, favour, or partiality.

Revenue and Expenditure.

6. The ordinary revenue of the year ending on 10th October 1854 was only 96,624*l.*, whilst the expenditure, omitting that for immigration defrayed from the guaranteed loan, amounted to 197,633*l.* This fearful discrepancy arose from the falling off of the receipts of the customs and excise, owing to the immense accumulation of stocks during the six months in 1853, when all duties were

* See Papers relative to the Affairs of the Island of Jamaica, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, August 10, 1854.

abrogated, and affords fuller data for estimating the total extent of the loss sustained from the political "dead-lock" than was procurable at the time the last "Blue Book" was sent home.

7. Assuming that the revenue would have been equal in 1853 and in 1854 to what it was in 1852, and no valid reason could be assigned to the contrary, the amount sacrificed last year would stand at 110,000*l.*, which, added to that of the preceding year, 67,000*l.*, would be 177,000*l.*, a cypher alarming enough, but still far below the full deficiency, as the receipts from wines and spirits and other articles continue to be greatly affected by the extra importations of 1853, whilst the duty on rum will not yield even this year half what it did previously.

8. The expenditure meanwhile has been very considerably reduced, though the progress in this direction is by no means so rapid or so sweeping as accords with the ideas of many of those extreme politicians whose impatience to effect this object occasioned the calamity just referred to, whereby 130,000*l.* has been added to the permanent debt of the island, and financial embarrassments created which must inevitably entail increased taxation for years to come, and postpone reforms which it would be most desirable on all other accounts to undertake immediately.

9. For the year ending 10th October 1853 the outgoings amounted, exclusive of cholera and small pox expenses, to two hundred and thirty thousand pounds sterling. Last year, as has been already shown, they were under two hundred thousand, and the estimates for the present year are little over one hundred and eighty thousand, whilst prospective reductions to some extent have been determined on during the session.

10. Were the comparison made with a period antecedent to the admission of slave-grown sugar to the British market, it would be even more favourable, and exhibit still more strikingly the difficulty of further retrenchment in the public establishments. The expenditure for ordinary purposes in 1845, the year preceding that event, was two hundred and seventy-seven thousand pounds, or nearly one hundred thousand in excess of 1855; and as, besides this, the parochial taxation, which then averaged another hundred thousand pounds, has for the two past years barely exceeded fifty thousand, it is clear that immense relief has been afforded to the taxpayers, though not, I grieve to admit, in the ratio in which their means of enduring taxation have declined. 104,000*l.*

11. I will only add on this subject that no change has taken place in regard to the defective structure of the accounts forwarded, the urgent pressure on the Receiver General's department having as yet prevented my directing his attention to this point; but I have little doubt that the installation of the Executive Committee as a regular Board of Audit will of itself ere long work out the desired improvements.

Legislation.

12. Under this head there are not among the multiplicity of enactments enumerated as passed in the parts of the two sessions embraced in the year 1854 many worthy to be cited as of lasting importance; by far the greater number, particularly towards the close of the year, when the second session commenced, being mere renewals of previous Acts, necessitated by the jealous system which still leads the Assembly to give even the most essential laws on the Statute Book but very limited duration. The Act "for the better government of the island, and for raising a revenue in aid thereof;" the Act "to consolidate and amend the laws relating to highways, not being turnpikes;" the Act "for the registration and better regulation of mining companies and partnerships;" and the Act "for the management and regulation of the customs of this island," are, however, beneficial results of the first session.

Civil Establishment.

13. Great changes have occurred during the year in official appointments in connexion with two of the above measures,—the Executive Committee having been organized under the first, and the whole Imperial Customs Establishment transferred to the island by the last. Few new admissions, however, took place under the latter Act, except such as followed upon the promotions among the

JAMAICA.

senior officers, consequent upon the retirement of Mr. Swainson, the former collector, and some others, who accepted their superannuation allowance from the Home Government.

14. Upon the death of Dr. Chamberlaine, health officer at Port Royal, who was in receipt of 500*l.* for the performance by deputy of nearly nominal duties in regard to quarantine, I felt it right, in appointing to the vacancy Dr. Downer, a gentleman who had suffered from the sudden discontinuance of his services as physician to the Female Penitentiary when incorporated with the General Penitentiary, to stipulate for the right of the Legislature when it met to reduce the salary or remodel the office, which might be rendered available for the sanitary superintendence of the forty thousand inhabitants of Kingston. The correspondence on the subject was moved for during the session, but nothing has yet been done.

15. The number of stipendiary justices has been further reduced by one, owing to the death of Mr. Ralph Cocking, and the absence of any provision for a successor to his district. Should the state of the finances render it practicable, I purpose directing the attention of the Legislature, on its re-assembling, to the absolute necessity of adding to the paid magistracy throughout the island.

16. Among the clergy, as will be observed, a good many moves occurred from deaths and other circumstances; but suitable candidates for the vacant livings have in all cases been recommended by the bishop, or, after his lordship left the diocese for England, Archdeacon Courtenay, the Vicar General. Much has been said by the island press, and in both branches of the Legislature, against the number of clergymen absent from their duties on leave; and as the licence for such purpose must issue from the Governor's secretary's office, though the law invests the former with no power to inquire into the sufficiency of the causes assigned to the Bishop, I may, perhaps, be permitted to point out that from an ecclesiastical staff numbering nearly a hundred persons, the majority natives of the temperate zones, not more than ten were away during the year, and of course not all of them at the same time. However much, therefore, the Clergy Act is defective in its provisions on the subject, I think it cannot be fairly argued that the power of granting leave has been abused either by my predecessor or myself.

Population.

17. The returns under this head are still, I regret to say, restricted to the information collected at the census of 1844, which, in the first instance not very trustworthy, has become, from the want of a proper system of registering births, deaths, and marriages, totally destitute of value, looking especially to the terrible ravages committed in the interim by two visitations of cholera.

18. The decennial epoch should certainly not have been allowed to expire without a fresh attempt being made to procure reliable statistics on ths most important of all subjects, so far as Jamaica is concerned; but the absolute bankruptcy of the Treasury has hitherto left me no choice, and I am compelled to defer pressing the necessity of a new census on the consideration of the Legislature until sufficient funds for the purpose,—say at least 3,000*l.*,—are forthcoming.

19. As regards the progress of the population last year, we only know that the final shipload of East Indian coolies which left the island was but just counterbalanced by the arrival of some Chinese, the only immigrants introduced; whilst, so far as the native labourers are concerned, the emigration to Navy Bay, reported with the "Blue Book" of 1853, continued during the earlier part of 1854 with even greater eagerness, though possibly the number who have returned since the railway was finished has equalled that which went within the latter period, and thus reduced the actual decrease of the population to the four or five thousand carried off by the cholera.

20. In the meantime nothing whatever could be accomplished towards the improvement either of the moral or physical condition of the lower orders, on

account of the unfortunate derangement of the finances resulting from the political quarrels of the previous year.

Education.

21. The returns of schools show a diminution of upwards of 2,000 children, or 17,536 in lieu of 19,662, as in 1853; the falling off, strange to say, being less conspicuous among those in connexion with the Churches of England and Scotland, which used formerly to receive pecuniary assistance from the colony, than among those of the Baptists and Independents, whose schools have always been conducted on the voluntary principle. A larger grant than usual has this year been voted, as your Lordship is aware, for educational purposes, and steps have likewise been taken for increasing the utility of one, and wholly organizing another, foundation school.

Gaols and Prisoners.

22. Not to dissever the statistics of crime from the rest of those concerning the moral well-being of the people, I take, as I have been wont, these returns next, though bound up almost last in the volume. They are, I cannot but think of a highly favourable nature, whether viewed comparatively with the criminal statistics of other communities, or with previous returns from this colony.

23. Taking Guiana as an apt example of the first, I find that the average number of prisoners in confinement at its penal settlement and in its different gaols, on the 31st December of the three last years of my government, during which there had been a remarkable diminution of crime, was 430 out of a population of 127,000*l.*, or in the proportion of 33 per cent.; whereas the number in the penitentiary and other gaols of Jamaica on the 31st of December last was, as will be perceived, 700; or assuming the population as 377,000, as in 1844, but 18 per cent.

24. Nor has crime increased in this island relatively to former years; for whilst the greatest number at any one time in confinement during 1853 was 1,080, it will be found never to have exceeded 919 in 1854; or, to take a more extended view, the "Blue Book" of 1845 shows the greatest number ten years ago, as 1,114, or 20 per cent. more than it is now. Nor is this diminution confined to minor offences, for the General Penitentiary, to which long-sentenced prisoners are sent, then contained 466 inmates, and the Female Penitentiary 28 more; whereas the number in custody on the 31st December last, in the two establishments (now combined) was only 385.

25. From the returns of that establishment, moreover, it will be seen that the great bulk of the crimes (261) consist of simple larceny, and that violent crimes against the person are rare, there having been but two convictions in the course of the year for murder, two for manslaughter, and four for rape. Even as regards the capital offences, I felt justified in commuting the sentences, with the full concurrence of the learned judges who had presided at the trials; in the one case on account of the extreme ignorance of the murderer, who, it was clearly proved, acted at the instigation of an "Obeah" man, to whose counsels he had recourse in a fit of jealousy, but who contrived to keep himself scatheless.

26. The comparison will be found equally favourable with respect to summary convictions; for the Consolidated Table of those before stipendiary magistrates shows an aggregate of only 4,514; or assuming an equal ratio for the six parishes destitute of such officers, 6,206 for the island, whereas I last year computed it on similar data at 6,708.

27. The returns as to charitable institutions are, as usual, blank, owing to their management having heretofore been left to Boards of Commissioners, whose officers were not responsible to government control; but as the members of the Executive Committee have now been associated in the charge of the public hospital and lunatic asylum, I trust next year to be enabled to furnish the particulars required in regard to these institutions.

Coins, Exchanges, &c.

28. Turning now to those heads which convey information as to the progress of commercial and agricultural affairs, it will seem from the first, which bears the above title, that the paper currency was last year augmented by nearly 50 per cent.,—say 54,000*l.* over the circulation of 1853,—owing to the fresh issue of island notes authorized by the 17th Vict. c. 30., with a view of meeting a portion of the arrearage accumulated from the suspension of payments for salaries, &c. in that year.

29. It is so far satisfactory to observe that the issues of the colonial and Jamaica banks, which are of course payable in specie on demand, were not contracted, despite this large addition of irredeemable paper, which at first threatened to create a monetary panic; and now that this unfair competition on the part of the State is about to be put an end to by the withdrawal of the island notes by means of the Parliamentary loan, there seems no reason why the circulation of these establishments should not fill up the gap thus occasioned to such an extent at least as is requisite to supply the legitimate wants of the trading community.

30. Much has been said, indeed, as to the necessity of the island continuing to maintain a paper currency of its own, based upon such a reserve of specie as would ensure its convertibility, and the Assembly has lately gone the length of affirming, nem. con., three abstract resolutions on the subject proposed by Mr. Girod, the editor of the "Colonial Standard;" but in my opinion the finances of the island will not for a long time to come be in a sufficiently solvent state, nor is confidence in the successful working of the new system of financial management yet sufficiently established to justify any fresh experiments of this sort, even were the importance of it much more urgent than in my view it is likely to prove.

31. Very exaggerated ideas, however, of the profits and benefits derivable from the issue of promissory notes by the State are still entertained out here, and the most unsound notions prevail as to the prosperity to be anticipated from such a creation of fictitious wealth; whilst, on the other hand, the strongest prejudices are entertained against the banks, the Colonial in particular, for having reduced their circulation of late years, in forgetfulness, apparently, of the contradiction involved in supposing that so gainful a business as the issue of paper has just been asserted to be, would be abandoned by these institutions for any other reason than the real one,—the falling off, namely, in the demand for accomodation from traders in good credit, arising from the unfortunate depression of the planters.

Imports and Exports.

32. The imports, which in 1853, notwithstanding the extreme distress of the country, were raised beyond those of 1852 by the absence of all duties, except an ad valorem rate of 2½ per cent., fell last year, owing to the glut thus occasioned, to less than one half of their then estimated value; but the aggregate value of the exports on the other hand exceeded that of either of the previous years, the comparative statement of both standing as under.

	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
1852 - - - -	£837,894	£927,377
1853 - - - -	864,094	837,276
1854 - - - -	403,520	932,316

Thus showing that my anticipations when forwarding the "Blue Book" of last year were correct, and especially as I was not too sanguine in predicting that the crop would turn out more remuneratively to the sugar planter than the one which preceded it.

33. In fact, the full extent of the improvement, so far as this class are concerned, is not shown by the aggregate figures here given; for there was a falling off in the export of coffee and some other articles, which reduced the amount of the increase on sugar and rum considerably, the increase on the latter article alone, consequent on a larger production, and the advance in its value occasioned by

the joint influence of a bad harvest in Europe, the disease in the vines, and the war, having been very nearly equal to 150,000*l.*

34. I wish I could speak with the same degree of confidence of the result of their operations for the present year; but the very wet weather which has prevailed since Christmas both affected the yielding of the canes and retarded their manufacture into produce, and the usual May rains have nevertheless set in with such intensity as to do great additional mischief to the roads and cultivation. Indeed, the "Colonial Standard" states to-day that the effect of the seasons is most deplorable, and cannot fail very materially to reduce the crops.

35. This is the more unfortunate, because there appears little prospect of the price of sugar rallying from its present almost unexampled depression, in the face of an addition of 50 per cent. to the tax on its importation into Great Britain imposed since this time last year, which must inevitably tend to check the consumption of the article, and as a necessary consequence lower its value.

36. Should this unfortunately prove true, some estates which I had hoped might be saved from abandonment will inevitably be thrown up in despair by their proprietors; but the confidence which I have expressed in the ability of the residue to weather the storm under almost any circumstances remains, nevertheless, unabated, and I am sanguine that the injury to the community at large resulting from the diminution of sugar cultivation, should it be destined to take place, will be to a great extent mitigated by the development of the other resources of the island, to which unusual attention is now turned through the exertions of the Local Society of Arts.

37. Bales of plantain fibre do not, it is true, yet figure in our Custom House returns, but large samples have been exported both to Great Britain and to the United States, and very encouraging reports received respecting their value; whilst the Commissioners of the General Penitentiary are about establishing a manufactory of paper from the refuse of the plant as a means of profitable employment for the convicts, and a model to be followed, I trust, by other parties who have capital sufficient for such a speculation.

38. From the mines, too, the latest accounts are of a most cheering description; and though the generally received opinion here is that mining will make the fortunes of a few individuals rather than resuscitate the expiring industry of the colony at large, I regard its success as of the utmost importance to the future of Jamaica, as tending to keep up that influx of capital and skilled labour, the withdrawal of which on the abandonment of sugar cultivation is so much to be dreaded.

39. I am aware that this is glancing at the brighter side of the picture, and that the actual position of affairs is still extremely critical; but it is at least satisfactory to find, upon this retrospect of the transactions of the past year, reliable evidence that they have grown no worse, and that the long dreaded epoch of the entire abolition of protecting duties on colonial products has passed by without producing so violent a shock as had been predicted.

40. If the continuance of political quietude can be ensured, and the finances be restored to solvency under the new system of government, I will not permit myself to despair of gradual and progressive improvement in the condition of the island of Jamaica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

TABULAR VIEW of the Number of PRISONERS received into the GENERAL PENITENTIARY from each COUNTY and PARISH from 1st January to the 31st December 1854.

COUNTY AND PARISH.	1 Horse Stealing.	2 Cattle Stealing.	3 Sheep Stealing.	4 Forgery.	5 Burglary.	6 Larceny.	7 False Pretences.	8 Embezzlement.	9 Assault with Intent.	10 Assault.	11 Riot and Assault.	12 Riot.	13 Rape.	14 Against Nature.	15 Attempting same.	16 Murder.	17 Manslaughter.	18 Cutting and Wounding.	19 Cutting and Maiming.	20 Cutting with Intent.	21 Maliciously Stabbing.	22 Highway Robbery.	23 Plundering from a Wreck.	24 Escape.	25 Receiving Stolen Goods.	26 Cutting down Trees.	27 Killing Cattle.	28 Killing Sheep.	29 Killing a Mule.	30 Killing a Mare.	31 Killing an Ass.	32 Maiming a Mule.	33 Rogue and Vagabond.	Total.
MIDDLESEX.																																		
Assize Courts	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
St. Catherine Quarter Sessions	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
St. Thos. ye Vale „ „	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Clarendon „ „	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	25
Vere „ „	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
St. Mary „ „	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Manchester „ „	—	—	—	—	5	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
St. Ann „ „	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Total	—	—	—	—	6	81	—	—	8	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	6	1	4	2	1	—	—	4	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	124
SURREY.																																		
Assize Courts	1	—	—	4	—	8	—	—	1	—	4	3	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
Kingston Quarter Sessions	1	—	—	—	1	58	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67
Port Royal „ „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Andrew „ „	1	—	—	—	3	16	3	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
St. Thos. ye East „ „	—	—	—	—	9	16	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	30
St. David „ „	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Portland „ „	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
St. George „ „	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	15
Metcalfe „ „	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Total	4	—	—	4	13	117	8	2	2	10	4	3	2	2	1	—	—	4	2	—	2	—	1	4	7	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	194
CORNWALL.																																		
Assize Courts	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
St. Elizabeth Quarter Sessions	—	—	—	—	—	34	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
Hanover „ „	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	6
Westmoreland „ „	2	—	—	—	1	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	24
Trelawny „ „	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
St. James „ „	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Total	3	—	—	—	1	63	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	1	1	90
CAYMANAS ISLANDS.																																		
Assize Court	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
GRAND TOTAL	7	—	—	4	20	261	10	2	11	10	4	3	4	4	1	2	4	13	7	4	4	2	1	4	11	4	6	1	1	1	1	1	2	410

Statistical Table, General Penitentiary.

Year ending December 31, 1854.

Number in Custody, 385.

AGES.		COLOUR.		CRIMES.	
Under 17 years	13			Horse stealing	12
„ 25 „	28			Forgery	3
From 25 to 30	196	Black	337	Burglary	26
„ 30 to 40	118	Coloured	35	Larceny	346
Above 40 years	30	White	13	False pretences	13
				Embezzlement	1
Total	385	Total	385	Rape	3
				Assault with intent	9
State of Education.		**Country.**		Assault	5
				Riot	2
Could read on admission	113			Against nature	2
Are learning	53	Natives	329	Sodomy	2
Cannot read	219	Not natives	56	Murder	2
Total	385	Total	385	Manslaughter	5
				Cutting and wounding	21
				Highway robbery	2
				Escape	3
				Receiving stolen goods	8
				Killing cattle	2
				Killing ditto with intent	2
				Killing mule	1
				Killing a mare	1
				Killing an ass	1
				Maiming a mule	1
				Rogue and vagabond	1
				Military offences	11
				Total	385
Under sentence of transportation	15			Under sentence of imprisonment	370
Received from Courts of Assize during the year	55			Discharged during the year	340
„ „ Quarter Sessions	355			Transferred to district prisons	60
„ „ Courts martial	74			Released by the Governor	32
				Died during the year	42
Total	484			Total	474
Number of re-convictions during the year	84				

RETURN of CRIME for the Year ended 31st December 1854, as compiled from the Quarterly Reports received from the Stipendiary Magistrates.

Names of Districts.	Petty Thefts. 11 Vict. c. 8.	Trespasses. Furtive. 7 Will. 4. c. 41.	Trespasses. Common and Malicious. 7 Will. 4. c. 36. 14 Vict. c. 46.	Assaults on Collectors of Duties, &c., Police and other Officers. 15 Vict. c. 3., 16 Vict. c. 45.	Assaults on Women and Children. 17 Vict. c. 16.	Assaults, Common. 7 Will. 4. c. 14.	Cruelty to Animals. 5 Vict. c. 13.	Breach of Peace. 6 Will. 4. c. 17.	Breach of Contract.	Offences against: Rum Law.—17 Vict. c. 7.	Pound Law.—15 Vict. c. 11.	Highway Act.—14 Vict. c. 41.	Vestry Law.—11 Vict. c. 20.	Vagrancy Law.—3 Vict. c. 18.	Towns and Communities Act. 7 Vict. c. 14.	Masters and Servants Act. 5 Vict. c. 43.	Tradesmen's Act.—6 Vict. c. 38.	Public Markets Act.—9 Vict. c. 38.	Hawkers and Pedlars Act. 10 Vict. c. 37.	Gunpowder and Fire-arms Act. 17 Vict. c. 24.	Petty Debt Act.—16 Vict. c. 45.	Fisheries Act.—6 Vict. c. 39.	Weights and Measures Act. 6 Vict. c. 28.	Pilot Law.—15 Vict. c. 26.	Mutiny Act.—Annual.	Merchant Seaman's Act. 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112. 13 & 14 Vict. c. 93. 16 & 17 Vict. c. 131.	Merchant Seaman's Act. Jamaica. 6 Will. 4. c. 32.	Total Number of Convictions.	Names of Stipendiary Magistrates.
Portland	10	2	5	–	–	22	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	47	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	86	Lake, Charles.
St. David	2	4	4	3	–	16	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	26	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	61	Fyfe, Alex. G.
Port Royal	4	2	1	11	–	26	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	33	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	81	Kent, Henry.
St. Andrew	13	–	6	5	–	83	2	–	–	2	2	–	1	2	125	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	260	Ewart, David.
Kingston	105	3	15	–	–	204	–	1	5	–	–	–	–	20	375	22	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	12	773	Willis, George, and Pryce, Samuel.
St. Catherine	15	4	6	–	2	70	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	3	154	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	264	Hill, Hon. R.
St. John	3	1	8	–	–	28	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	31	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	74	
St. Dorothy	7	9	7	1	–	13	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	34	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	73	Bell, W. A.
St. Thomas (Vale)	25	18	17	1	–	59	4	–	–	1	2	7	3	–	40	4	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	182	Jackson, T. W.
St. Mary	48	–	62	4	–	74	–	36	2	–	6	–	–	–	55	26	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	316	Walsh, Henry.
St. Ann	37	29	72	12	–	83	3	9	–	–	2	–	–	–	92	5	1	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	11	–	357	Dillon, T. A.
Clarendon	1	16	25	–	–	57	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	72	17	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	188	Crewe, Henry.
Manchester	55	5	56	–	–	89	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	101	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	306	Laidlaw, Henry.
St. Elizabeth	20	37	47	1	–	77	2	–	–	1	3	–	–	1	96	24	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	312	Rumbold, Sir C. A. H.
Trelawny	42	52	44	16	–	110	5	1	–	6	2	31	2	3	192	79	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	12	2	602	Emery, Robert, and Kelly, D. W.
St. James*	13	46	20	–	–	121	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	238	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	438	Chamberlaine, R.
Westmoreland†	7	8	14	–	–	51	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	61	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	141	Cocking, Ralph.
	407	244	409	54	2	1183	17	47	9	11	23	38	6	29	1772	196	1	2	5	1	4	3	–	2	3	28	14	4514	

* No Returns were furnished by Mr. Stip. Mag. Chamberlaine for the quarter ended 30th June 1854.
† Mr. Stip. Mag. Cocking died on 24th October 1854.

HUGH W. AUSTIN, Governor's Secretary.

No. 7.

JAMAICA.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Henry Barkly to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 84.) King's House, August 6, 1855.

My Lord, (Received September 6, 1855.)

No comparative statement of the exports of this island has been forwarded since that for the quarter and year ending 10th October last, the usual period to which the sugar crop is reckoned, which I enclosed in my despatch of the 15th November following (No. 114); but as I expressed very unfavourable anticipations as to the crop of the current year, in my despatch with the annual Blue Book*, it may be satisfactory for me to transmit the accompanying returns from the Customs, for the first three quarters of it, showing, as compared with the exports to 5th July 1854, a far smaller reduction from the effects of the wet weather than I was prepared for.

*No. 59, May 21, 1855. Page Encls. A. and B.

The decrease amounts to 2,200 hogsheads of sugar, but this is greatly counterbalanced by an increase of 1,200 puncheons of rum, the more valuable article of the two, under present circumstances.

As a great deal of produce remains to be manufactured, and the weather is now extremely fine, I trust there will be no deficiency at all by the 10th October next.

The price of sugar, too, having risen in the home market, owing to short crops in Louisiana and Cuba, and the rapid decline of beet-root culture in France, I am in hopes that many planters will be encouraged to put in canes for another year, who might not otherwise have struggled on.

The shipments of pimento have been 1,300,000 lbs. in excess, but there is on the other hand a trifling deficit of nearly 300,000 lbs. on coffee, an article of about equal value.

Of the minor staples, ginger has nearly doubled itself in quantity, whilst most of the rest show but trivial variations.

Altogether I am enabled to take a more cheering view of the agricultural prospects of the island than I could do three months back, and to report that its difficulties and drawbacks in that respect are at any rate not increasing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure A. in No. 2.)

PORT OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

A RETURN showing the principal Staple Articles exported from this Island during the Quarters ended 5th January, 5th April, and 5th July, 1854.

—	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Cotton.	Pimento.	Ginger.	Arrow-root.	Logwood.	Fustic.	Lance-wood Spars.	Mahogany and other Woods.	Succades.	Santa or Shrub.	Honey.	Bees' Wax.	Cocoanuts.	Coffee.	Lignum Vitæ and Ebony.	Copper Ore.
Quarters ended—	Hhds.	Phns.	Casks.	Lbs.	L bs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Tons.	Tons.	No.	Tons. Feet.	Cwts. qrs. lbs.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Cwts. qrs. lbs.	No.	Lbs.	Tons.	Tons.
5th January 1854	1,750	858	—	1,760	1,882,537	35,086	5,064	671	116	1,512	0 12,300	40 1 4	—	690	100 2 23	27,800	187,018	36	5
5th April „	8,182	3,275	—	540	1,105,615	95,824	43,506	1,648	203	3,093	5 14,520	50 2 2	30	1,148	96 1 1	142,496	2,730,209	2	5
5th July „	9,881½	5,212	2	1,600	326,215	283,558	46,065	1,183	158	1,679	0 9,581	90 3 25	48	4,241	82 1 4	95,589	1,902,226	33	26
Total -	19,813½	9,345	2	3,900	3,314,367	414,468	94,635	3,502	477	6,284	5 36,401	181 3 3	78	6,079	279 1 0	265,885	4,819,453	71	36

Custom House, Kingston, Jamaica,
2d August 1855.

W. G. FREEMAN, Collector.
R. B. BERRY, Comptroller.

(Enclosure B. in No. 2.)

PORT OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

A RETURN showing the principal Staple Exports from this Island during the Quarters ended 5th January, 5th April, and 5th July, 1855.

—	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Cotton.	Coffee.	Pimento.	Ginger.	Arrow-root.	Logwood.	Fustic.	Lance-wood Spars.	Mahogany and other Woods.	Succades.	Santa or Shrub.	Honey.	Bees' Wax.	Cocoanuts.	Lignum Vitæ and Ebony.	Copper Ore.
Quarters ended—	Hhds.	Phns.	Casks.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Tons.	Tons.	No.	Tons. Feet.	Cwts. qrs. lbs.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Cwts. qrs. lbs.	No.	Tons.	Tons.
5th January 1855	653	564	—	—	319,211	2,289,344	3,412	1,428	1,686	82	133	—	30 3 26	—	1	32 3 9	38,000	1	20
5th April „	7,138	3,993	—	280	1,777,606	2,011,660	27,488	30,623	1,921	255	1,005	0 71,690	57 2 17	42	1,496	154 1 17	197,151	81	$\frac{3}{20}$
5th July „	9,817	6,001	—	—	2,431,293	372,319	152,268	29,577	2,638	290	1,559	8 2,500	77 0 2	55	3,300	299 2 14	148,030	31	9
Total -	17,608	10,558	—	280	4,528,110	4,673,323	183,168	61,628	6,245	627	2,697	8 74,190	165 2 17	97	4,797	486 3 12	383,181	113	29$\frac{3}{20}$

Custom House, Kingston, Jamaica,
31st July 1855.

W. G. FREEMAN, Collector.
R. B. BERRY, Comptroller.

HONDURAS.

No. 8.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Henry Barkly to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 21.) King's House, Jamaica, July 5, 1855.
(Received, August 4, 1855.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit the Honduras Blue Book for the year 1854, together with Mr. Stevenson's Report, intended to accompany it.

I likewise enclose a Despatch subsequently written by him, in forwarding an interesting description of the northern district of the settlement, communicated by its stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Burke.

Your Lordship will be glad to observe that the trade of Belize is rapidly increasing in importance, not only through the larger exportation of mahogany, but from its becoming an entrepôt for the cochineal, indigo, cigars, sarsaparilla, &c. produced in the neighbouring states of Central America.

The northern district, too, which embraces a rich tract of country bordering on the province of Yucatan, seems destined to prove an admirable field for the cultivation of tropical produce, in proportion as population is attracted to it by the greater security for life and property offered under the British than under the Mexican flag.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

Report on the Blue Book of British Honduras for 1854.

Taxes and Duties.

There were no material changes in this department during last year.

Fees.

Neither were there any alterations in the Schedules of Fees.

Revenue and Expenditure.

There would appear from the statement under this head to have been an increase in last year's revenue of 8,621*l.*, whereas, in fact, the increase was little more than 2,500*l.*; and the reason I gave last year for the apparent, though unreal difference, is equally applicable to the present year, and will be to next year's statements also, namely, the transfer to 1854 of the credit papers of 1853, instead of the entry of those papers as applicable to the current year.

But as the suggestion of my predecessor in favour of that change was not found convenient, an alteration has been again made to the former system.

The amount, therefore, of 3,046*l.*, which appears at page 18 as the "amount of promissory notes of 1853," must be deducted from the apparent revenue of 1854, and added to that of the previous year, when the real difference of about 2,500*l.* will appear as the result of the altered duties of 1854.

The balance in favour of the public at the end of 1854 was principally applicable to public works in progress and in contemplation, and has since been so applied as the works have been proceeded with.

Public Works.

The progress of the public works was very much retarded last year, in consequence of the want of skilled labour and necessary materials; and the calamitous fire of last August, which destroyed the gaol and some other public

property, rendered it necessary to abandon all the intended improvements on that prison, and to build an entirely new one on a different site and on a much larger scale. Many of these works, however, are now in progress, and arrangements have been made for the construction of others.

Legislation.

Although the new constitution law had come into operation, and a great improvement had been made in the legislative body, yet no measure of any great public importance was introduced last year at the first session of the newly-constituted body, the then acting Superintendent having expressed a desire that all such measures should await the arrival of the new Superintendent, then shortly expected. No laws of a broad constitutional character were, therefore, passed last year; but they formed the subject of the present year's legislation, and will appear in the next Blue Book.

The only laws which passed last year were the following, being the Acts of the second session of 17 Vict.:—

No. 5. The usual annual law to impose taxes and duties for the financial year.

No. 6. Relating to officers of the new Assembly.

No. 7. To amend a Fine Act, as regards the service on juries.

No. 8. Regulating the charges of drayage and cartage in the town.

No. 9. For better collection of the customs revenues.

This is a re-enactment of the late law, then about to expire, with some few alterations, to be found in clauses 24, 26, and 29.

The 24th clause now affects dutiable articles introduced into any port or place in the settlement, with enforcement of declaration of produce or seizure on refusal. The latter part of clause 26 authorizes the forfeiture of certain prohibited articles; and the 29th clause inflicts a fine for violation of the Act by carelessness or neglect without apparent intention to defraud the revenue. The Act has since been amended during the session of the present year, on the suggestion of the Secretary of State, in respect to the 9th and 12th clauses relating to "manifests."

No. 10. To protect the community from the practices of pretended professors of medicine.

I reported fully on this Act, when it fell to my duty on my arrival here to transmit it to the Secretary of State in my Despatch, "Legislative, No. 13, of 17th March 1854," and mentioned what I had understood to be the occasion of its introduction; and I also noticed the two objectionable points which appeared to me to be contained in the Act; one being, that the prohibition to practise was not confined to practice for pay; the other being, that the "due and legal qualification" required was not defined.

Some such Act, properly drawn and directed, would, no doubt, be beneficial in this, as in any other community; but the Act is at present unworkable, being impotent in its good intentions, and harmless in its objectionable features. It may probably be the subject of future amendment.

No. 11. To compel owners of land to fill in the same, and for other purposes.

This Act has altogether a sanitary object. The town is built on low swampy land; many of the allotments in the very heart of the town being often covered with stagnant and fœtid water; and the old laws of the place requiring the owners to keep them properly filled up, the conditions also of the original grants require them to do so on pain of forfeiture; so that, however arbitrary the requirement might appear, it is, notwithstanding, necessary under the circumstances, as well as obligatory by existing laws, of which the present is little more than a re-enactment.

Authority is also given under the last clause to lay out a new street with the same sanitary object.

Council and Assembly.

In pursuance of the new Constitution Act, and under the authority of Royal Instructions, the new Executive Council was formed last year, consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Public Treasurer, and three private gentlemen; the Attorney General, who is one of the intended official members, not having been appointed since my arrival here.

The Council are joined with the Superintendent in the duty of regulating the faithful expenditure of all the votes and appropriations of the legislature, and are empowered to act as advisers of the Superintendent in any matters of executive policy or inquiry on which he may think proper to consult them.

A standing committee of the whole Council has been appointed for the ordinary examination of accounts, and through their hands all public accounts and vouchers pass in the first instance before payment is made. As a fixed rule, the Superintendent and Council meet once a month to report on all these matters of account, and to pass those already acquiesced in, and adjust any question about others. And then, and upon such other occasions as may be necessary, they transact any other executive business which the Superintendent brings to their notice.

The new Assembly consists of eighteen elected members, and three chosen by the Superintendent, in all twenty-one members; the former "public meeting" having been composed of an irregular body of about sixty persons.

The public business brought before the new legislature last year was not of a character to show any improvement in their powers of legislation; but many measures have since been passed which called for a great deal of careful legislative consideration and judgment, the result of which has shown the constitutional change to be a decided improvement on the former system of transacting legislative business.

Civil Establishment.

There are some few changes in the arrangements of this department which I think would be very advantageous to the public, and which it is hoped may soon be accomplished, as they easily may be without much, or perhaps any, additional expense. With one or two exceptions, there are quite as many offices and departments as are necessary for the public service; but in some cases there are too many of them centred in the same official person. This plurality of offices may be allowable here, to some extent, where the duties of a single department may be too light to justify the payment of much salary, and where the small salary would not be sufficient for the support of the holder of a single office; but there should be some slight re-adjustment of offices, in which all plural appointments should be only of consistent or congruous offices, and to each of which the specific salary should be attached and the duties defined. The result of this arrangement would be, that if a holder of a plurality of offices misconducted himself in any one office, or showed his unfitness for the performance of its functions, he might be removed from that office without being affected in his others; whereas now, where several are held under one appointment or contract with the public, and to be performed for one salary, any removal from one would be necessarily a removal from all, and this might not always be just towards the holder of the offices.

Where, as is sometimes the case, a dereliction of duty or inefficiency of service occurs in any one of these plural offices, the excuse offered is that the duties of other offices occurring simultaneously occasion the cause of complaint; and the result is, that either such excuse must be allowed and inefficient services sanctioned, or the holder must be visited with punishment by the loss of all his offices.

This inconvenience is, in some cases, traceable to the changes that have taken place in most of the original institutions of the country where no corresponding alterations have been made in the machinery. For instance, the "magistrates" were originally the ruling executive power, and at the same time were at the head of the civil and criminal courts as well as of the prerogative and ordinary courts, formed a sort of municipal corporation, and were at the same time the leading persons in the "public meeting." They had one "clerk," and as they could only sit in one place at one time, their clerk always accompanied them, and found no inconvenience in those days in doing the work of all the departments.

Now these magistrates have ceased, and their functions are divided; and the present functionaries sometimes act simultaneously, though always separately, but still with only one clerk, and hence the difficulty; the present clerk being clerk of all the criminal and civil courts, and of the court of ordinary, keeper of the public records, clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and other minor

offices, all of which he holds under one appointment and for one salary, which, however, is a very adequate one, and might be easily subdivided.

Another serious difficulty in these cases is this, that although a second or even a third office, when added to one of primary importance, may not at first give much additional duty; yet, as the duties of the second or third office are liable to be increased, they become in such case so great an embarrassment on the time of the holder as to press seriously on his primary duties, which must either become neglected or inefficiently performed, or the superadded duties must become so, and in any case the public service is affected by the inconvenience.

I may instance in this latter case the department of the Colonial Secretary, who is also Clerk of the Council, and has various other isolated as well as connected duties thrown upon him. All these are very well, because they are very much of the same character; but then he is also "Controller of the Customs," the duties of which, in the first instance, were not very heavy, but have since exceedingly increased, and are still increasing, by various local laws and requirements, as well as by imperial laws relating to shipping and customs duties. The consequence is, that if all these additional duties are to be efficiently performed, the primary duties of Secretary and Clerk of the Council must necessarily be impaired, or to some extent excused, as is the case at present; added to which, in the event of that officer being called upon to act in the leading executive department during any temporary absence of the Superintendent, although he may always continue (with assistance) his primary office of "secretary," he cannot perform the duties of "controller;" neither can he be sure of finding, on the occasion of the moment, an efficient substitute for that office, supernumerary or unemployed persons being very rare in this place.

It is my intention, however, to bring these points of difficulty before a future session of the Assembly; and no doubt such changes as are necessary will be produced.

Great inconvenience has been felt by the Executive by the want of an "Attorney General," no such officer having been appointed during the whole of last year, and none being yet appointed. The reason is, that under an existing law, which was passed in 1847, an Attorney General was authorized to be appointed, but was restricted from practising in any of the courts otherwise than in Crown matters; and for the last two years, since the vacancy occurred, attempts have been made to confine the appointment of that officer to a barrister of some practice in the common law courts, giving an increasd salary, but preserving the former restriction as to non-practice. This, however, has been objected to by the Government as in some degree crippling the prerogative, and the last bill on the subject is now before the Secretary of State for consideration.

In other respects the civil establishment was sufficiently complete last year, and still continues so. Some of the secondary offices, which have been superadded to primary appointments, such as collector and comptroller of customs, clerk of Council, &c. &c., do not appear in the tables, those offices having no salaries attached to them.

Education.

The scheme of education, under the aid of public funds, continued the same last year as during the previous year.

The returns at pages 142–3 show that out of the estimated permanent population of about 4,500 in the town of Belize about 586 children were educated by the public at the expense of about 929*l.*, while about 100 others were educated by the Baptists, who accept no aid from the public funds.

Since the commencement of this year an arrangement has been made for providing a master of an "infant school" about to be established; but the master nor having yet arrived, the benefit of that improvement has not yet been experienced.

There will probably be other changes made for the benefit of the scheme of education, which, from the want of good teachers, as well as from an insufficiency of funds for all the objects to be desired, is far from being perfect, although in a fair state of advancement.

It is with the greatest difficulty that the parents can be induced to pay anything, however insignificant, as a contribution towards the instruction of their children. The advantages of education are not yet sufficiently appreciated by them to be regarded as a purchaseable necessary; and although given gratuitously, it is in many cases only accepted when convenient, the children of some parents being frequently withdrawn from the schools for weeks at a time, and sent into the country, or employed elsewhere, to the great interruption of their studies, and the detriment also of the other scholars in the same classes. However, this is not a very general practice; and it seems to be remarked, and the attendances at the schools likewise show, that the desire for the education of children is increasing among the parents, and that among the more steady and intelligent of the children there is as much advancement as could be reasonably expected from the limited machinery and materials of instruction; while it must be confessed that, from the same cause, the general advancement of the children, as well as the discipline and system in the schools, are far inferior (as might be expected) to English schools of corresponding character.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of 1854 over 1853 from Great Britain have increased by upwards of 31,600*l.*, and from the United States they have increased by upwards of 17,000*l.*, while from the West Indies and the Central States they have considerably decreased; but the general imports of last year over the previous year were increased by upwards of 43,500*l.* sterling.

The exports of 1854 over 1853 to Great Britain exceeded 108,000*l.*, and those to the foreign states were likewise increased, while those to the United States decreased to the amount of 7,000*l.* But the general exports of last year over those of the previous year were increased by upwards of 106,900*l.* sterling.

Of the principal staples of the country, namely, logwood and mahogany, there was no material difference between the two last years' exports of logwood; but the mahogany exported last year exceeded that of the previous year by upwards of a million feet.

It may be remarked that many items of export which appear in the tables, such as cochineal, indigo, cigars, sarsaparilla, &c., are not the productions of this country, but are either purchased by the merchants, or received by them as payments, or transmitted from the neighbouring states for shipmen t to Europe. Perhaps these articles should properly appear under corresponding items in the table of imports.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The total destruction of the gaol in August last year rendered it necessary that temporary accommodation should be provided for the prisoners, and they have accordingly been placed, in convenient classes, in two large and commodious buildings in a favourable situation in the town. One of these buildings, which had at one time been used as a lunatic asylum and public dispensary, but which entirely failed in both objects, has now been given up to the public, with a large area on which the buildings stand, as the site of the new prison which is about to be erected, upon condition that a new and satisfactory arrangement is made in a wing of the new house or otherwise for the reception of "criminal lunatics."

In these temporary buildings all the details of prison discipline have been very satisfactorily carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON,
H.M. Superintendent.

Government House, Belize,
June 12, 1855.

HONDURAS.

(No. 46.) Government House, Belize,

Sir, June 15, 1855.

In my Despatch of the 18th of January last I mentioned that I had requested Mr. Bourke, the recently appointed magistrate of the northern district of this settlement, to make me as early and as full a report as he could of the state of the country and population within his jurisdiction.

I have only this day received that report, of which I have now the honour to enclose a copy; and had I not already closed my Report of the Blue Book, which will be transmitted by the present packet, I should have added some few remarks on the subject of this remote district of the settlement. However, I may myself chance to become personally acquainted with it by-and-by, when I shall have a better opportunity of making statements as the result of my own observation.

But the report is not without considerable interest, as having reference to a comparatively new class of settlers, and to a country which has only been recently put to trial for its agricultural value.

The country chiefly spoken of in the report is at the northern limit of the settlement, where it binds on Yucatan, now in the state of Mexico; and the people spoken of are for the most part Yucatican refugees and immigrants, following the peaceful but profitable occupation of agriculture, at the same time that they are valuable aids to the mahogany and logwood cutters, and tolerably quiet villagers. They pursue, of course, their native and religious habits of sabbath festivity and holiday making, running sometimes into excess in gambling, drinking, and cock-fighting; but all these pursuits must be slow in their change; and when one or two schools have been founded, which I am endeavouring to establish in some of those villages, and the corrective check of magisterial authority and municipal order becomes appreciated, I have no doubt but that the northern district will become the most valuable portion of the settlement. Its productive capabilities are already acknowledged to be excellent for every variety of tropical cultivation; and if the settlers could only be assured of their security in the pursuit of agriculture, it is probable that those parts of this settlement would soon be made to prove their fertility in the production of some of the most valued articles of commerce.

Believing that you would like to know something of this little-known part of British Honduras, I have sent you a hasty copy of the report, with these few hurried remarks of my own.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON.

Governor Sir H. Barkly, K.C.B.

Sir, Corosal, Northern District, May 28, 1855.

I have the honour to lay before your Excellency a report of the present state of the northern district, founded on my own observation, and intercourse both private and official, with the inhabitants, and on information afforded by persons of undoubted veracity.

The territorial extent of this portion of the settlement is very considerable; it contains sixteen villages, which at a very low estimate number in the aggregate between five and six thousand inhabitants. These villages are built either on the seashore or on the banks of the Northern, the New River, or the Hondo. The first in importance is Corosal, whose population, ascertained by a census completed a day or two ago, is two thousand; and the second, San Esteban, on the New River, which has a population, also ascertained, of eleven hundred and thirty souls. In the Northern River there are fewer settlements, and these of inconsiderable size; their population may be fairly estimated at five hundred.

Almost all communications between the several portions of this district is by water. This is a source of very great inconvenience, occasioning serious delay in travelling, and the transit of goods. For example, a journey to the village of Cocos, which may be performed by land in seven or eight hours, occupies forty-eight hours by water. I cannot say that any attempt has been made to apply a remedy, either by putting the roads already laid out into a serviceable condition, or by laying out new ones. In their present state they are mere bridle tracks, and even as such can only be used during one half of the year, the rains during the remaining half rendering them totally impassable. It may be

proper to add, that no labour is bestowed upon these roads, except once a month, on Fauna day, when each male inhabitant, either personally or by substitute, is supposed to assist in clearing away overhanging bushes or branches of trees.

With few exceptions, the fixed settlers are engaged in agricultural pursuits. Indian corn, which constitutes the principal, if not the sole article of food, is grown in quantities sufficiently large for this purpose, and also to assist very materially in supplying the Belize market. Ground provisions are produced in abundance, whilst sufficient tobacco and rice are grown, to prove satisfactorily that these articles may be as easily and as largely produced as the former. The sugar cane is also cultivated to a considerable extent, and every year adds to the number of persons engaged in the manufacture of sugar, and distillation of rum and aniseed. I cannot speak with certainty of the quantity of either made in the district. A reference to the amount of revenue raised on brown sugar and spirits imported into this settlement during the year 1852, when the cultivation of sugar began in the district, and during the two consecutive years, would throw some light on the subject; but I have not as yet been able to procure the requisite information. It seems agreed, however, that the quantity is nearly equal to and might soon be brought to exceed considerably, the consumption of one of those articles at least, sugar, in the settlement, without diminishing the quantity of spirits now manufactured.

To effect this, a little skill, and the aid of good machinery, are all that is necessary. Very indifferent wooden mills are at present in use. So very imperfect is the pressure effected in these mills, that fully fifteen per cent. of cane juice is lost. The boiling process seems also very defective. The skimmings are thrown away, or applied to the feeding of pigs, and the molasses are made into cakes, which are sold in the settlement, so that neither the one nor the other is used for the purposes of distillation. Rum and aniseed are distilled from panela; this substance is sugar in process of manufacture, which, having nearly reached the granulating point, is taken from the boiler and beaten till it becomes a solid, hard mass. For every barrel of sugar manufactured, fifteen of panela are made. If, therefore, all the latter were converted into sugar, it is manifest that the supply of this article would exceed the demand; whilst a quantity of spirits fully equal to that at present made might be obtained from the skimmings and molasses as elsewhere. With regard to the existing mode of manufacture, a very careful observation of it has led me to the conclusion that the sugar planters, from want of skill and suitable machinery, incur a loss of forty-five or fifty per cent. at a very moderate calculation. The sugar, notwithstanding, is of excellent quality, and commands from 24*s.* to 28*s.* sterling in the markets of the settlement. This must be a highly remunerative price, as I am informed, on good authority, that 16*s.* or 20*s.* would yield a fair profit.

Indians constitute the greatest proportion of the labouring population. They are a strong, hardy, patient, and submissive class, but much addicted to drunkenness. Their wages are about ninepence per day, payable one half in goods, (of which aniseed, made frequently on the plantations, constitutes a considerable portion,) and the other half in money. Spirits being thus so easily obtainable, it does not seem surprising that those who incline to intemperance should be led into excess.

Of the state of crime in the district, I can form no opinion, having no data for my guidance. During nearly six months, all the cases I have adjudicated have been principally offences against the person or the public peace, and have not exceeded twenty-one in number.

The constabulary force of the district is very small among so large a population; three constables are certainly an insufficient quota.

The illicit sale of spirits is extensively practised.

Smuggling is carried on to a considerable extent; cattle, horses, and mules are brought across the Hondo from the Spanish settlements, and by some of the numerous tracks between that river and the New River are taken to some of the settlements on the latter, and there readily disposed of.

There are no schools in the district, and considerably the largest proportion of the inhabitants are so uneducated as to be unable either to read or write. The religious as well as the secular culture of their minds seems almost equally uncared for, as they are entirely without religious instruction, except what they may receive during a few transient visits of some Roman Catholic clergymen.

That they should be highly vicious and immoral seems only a natural consequence. Concubinage is common, and complaints by husbands of infidelity on the part of their wives, who leave their protection to live with other individuals, are numerous; not to mention cases of the like nature which, although of public notoriety, are not brought under the notice of the magistrate.

Gambling is a vice very generally prevalent, and, with cock-fighting and dancing, commonly practised on the Sabbath, which is totally disregarded.

The measure of protection afforded by the law to person and property appears satisfactory; and an Act passed during the last public meeting, to amend the law relative to contracts for hire, as well as those for the summary disposal of petty thefts, and to improve the constitution of the police and summary courts, which increases the jurisdiction of the magistrate over all demands for unliquidated damages, from six to ten pounds sterling, are highly appreciated. The act to amend the Marriage Act of 1852 has not yet become

HONDURAS.

generally known, but it seems admirably adapted to answer the end designed, namely, to facilitate marriages amongst persons living in parts of the settlement remote from Belize.

Thus to legislate for the protection of life and property, and the maintenance of peace and good order, is obviously calculated to promote the well-being of society, to increase the confidence of the present settlers, to induce others of their countrymen to seek an asylum where they may live in peace and security, and by these means to increase the number of effective agricultural labourers, an object of no inconsiderable importance in a country where labour is so scarce.

But there are objects of paramount importance which seem to demand from the humanity and benevolence of an enlightened government immediate attention, and without which the best directed efforts of legislation may prove vain or abortive. Foremost in this rank is the education of the people, secular as well as religious, and, next, the adoption of such measures as may be best calculated to develop the resources of the country, and to encourage agriculture. But pre-eminently important is the first of these objects, on the attainment of which depend the elevation of these persons to their proper rank in the scale of civilization, their value and usefulness as citizens and subjects, and what is of infinitely greater moment than either of these, their everlasting welfare.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. BURKE,
Magistrate, North District.

His Excellency William Stevenson,
Her Majesty's Superintendent, &c. &c., Belize.

BAY ISLANDS.

BAY ISLANDS.

[*The usual Annual Report has not been received for Bay Islands.*]

BAHAMAS.

No. 9.

BAHAMAS.

No. 9.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. BANNERMAN to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 27.) Government House, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas, May 11, 1855.

MY LORD, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit the "Blue Book" of the Bahamas Government for the year 1854, accompanied by a report thereon by Mr. Nesbitt, Colonial Secretary, who administered this government to the 10th October of that year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BANNERMAN,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT of C. R. NESBITT, Esq., Colonial Secretary and Administrator of the Government.

1. *Taxes, Duties, &c. as Sources of Revenue.*

17 Vict. c. 2.

The duties here specified came into operation under the Act quoted, and approved of by Her Majesty in Council on the 1st of April 1854.

There was a reduction on the duty on flour imported of upwards of two fifths of the previous duty, and the duty on Indian corn, peas, beans, poultry, &c., was entirely remitted, and on other articles of food and consumption considerably modified; to counterpoise the revenue, however, an addition of ten per cent. was made to the ad valorem duties, on regularly imported manufactured unenumerated articles, and of 15 per cent. on similar articles, otherwise introduced into the colony, not specially exempted.

2. *Revenue.*

The return of revenue for 1854 exhibits the gross amount as 25,966*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, while for 1853 the return shows 29,212*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, and thus exhibits an apparent decrease of 3,246*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*

This decrease may be partially accounted for—

1. By the following sum being entered as revenue for 1853, namely, 1,272*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, balance of the debt due by the Turks Islands Government to the Bahama Government.

2. In 1853 the export duty on salt produced 600*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* This export duty ceased on the 31st March 1854, and the credit for the produce of such duty in 1854 up to that period was only 163*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

3. There is a difference in the amount of interest paid in by the public bank as revenue, namely, in 1853 the amount so credited was 500*l.*, whereas in 1854 it was only 200*l.*; but the 500*l.* credited, though made up in the year 1853, embraced interest accruing during a longer period than one year.

4. The following amounts are entered in 1853 as revenue, which, strictly speaking, were incidental payments to be credited, but not to be taken into the annual comparison as revenue, namely,

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The resumption of an unexpended balance voted for inclosing cemetery of Grant's Town - - - - -	22	19	10
Do. of funds placed at disposal of Board of Health -	1	4	5
Proceeds of sale of land at Albert's Town (to be repaid owners when known and claimed) - - - - -	55	10	4
	79	14	7

5. The reduction of one moiety of the specific duty on rye flour, and on meal, for nine months of the year 1854, may more than account for the reduction in the proceeds of that duty from 191*l.* 1*s.* to 91*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*

6. The modification of the duty on wheat flour by a reduction of two fifths of the specific duty for nine months of the year 1854 may account for the reduction of about 1,000*l.*

The reduction of the duty on salt fish of upwards of a moiety, and on some species of five eighths, may also account for the diminution of revenue on this article; while the reduction of the duty on certain lamp oils, which operated nearly as a prohibition, exhibits an increase of duty on oils from 116*l.* 13*s.* to 595*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*

The reduction of the duty on sugar causes a deficiency to be exhibited in this article of revenue of 554*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*

The ad valorem duties, if put altogether, do not exhibit much difference in the two years, although the nominal rate for nine months of 1854 was considerably beyond that of 1853. This increase may have had temporarily the effect of producing fewer importations until the old stocks were consumed; and practically, the ad valorem revenue cannot be estimated by regular importations entirely, as the quantity of wrecked merchandise, which is very variable and fluctuating, enters largely into the estimation when calculating the probable amount of ad valorem duties.

On the whole, the new tariff has been sufficiently productive to meet the exigencies of the colonial exchequer, though nine months can scarcely be considered an adequate test of its productiveness. The lowering of the duty on flour, corn, &c. has not had the effect of creating increased consumption of those articles, inasmuch as the high price of provisions in the United States and elsewhere, during the year 1854, has probably more than counteracted the effect of such reduction in ordinary years, while the casualty of the monopoly of provisions at Nassau in limited hands has probably kept up the market price (and thus checked consumption) considerably beyond what even the enhanced prices current of provisions in the neighbouring states would have established, with more frequent communication, and, consequently, freer commercial competition.

Expenditure.

The expenditure exhibits an increase of 1,497*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, but of this amount 987*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* is chargeable to the visitation of cholera in two previous years; 134*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* is a part of the public debt paid off. An increase in the annual

amount voted to the Education Board, per 17 Vict. cap. 15., and the provision for the appointment of a police magistrate at Harbour Island, per 17 Vict. cap. 17., may account for the remainder, without pursuing the inquiry further.

At page 42, the present debt of the colony is stated to be 18,390*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, on interest at 5*l.* per 100*l.*, payable quarterly; it has been reduced, as before stated, by the payment of 134*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* The reductions of the above debt from time to time have been effected by remittances of the sum of 8,000*l.* assumed by the colony of Turks Islands as its quota on its separation from this Government.

The detailed statement of the public debt is for the first time stated in the Blue Book at page 50, previous Blue Books not having a printed form provided for such statement; this, with the revenue and expenditure returns, are made up at the Public Treasury.

At page 64, the civil engineer, in compliance with the circular Despatch from the Secretary of State of 9th August 1854, has made a special report relative to the state of repair of Government House and premises, including the furniture, and the means to guard against damages by fire.

Legislation.

A separate report accompanied the Acts assented to in the months of January and March 1854, when they were transmitted to the Secretary of State.

At page 76, a new return, under the head of "Political Franchise," is furnished, showing the colony to have 13 electoral divisions, 28 representatives, and 4,829 registered electors, of whom 1,657 voted at the last general election.

Imports and Exports.

The sum total of exports in 1853 was (page 191) estimated at 78,403*l.*, while those of 1854 were estimated at 69,502*l.* Of this reduction in exports, about a moiety occurs in reference to Great Britain, and the rest to other parts of the world.

This may be partially accounted for by the diminished crops of fruit consequent on the damages sustained by the pine and orange orchards by the gale of November 1853, and the diminished salt crops in 1854, on all the salt producing islands except Magera.

The total value of imports in 1854 and the previous year vary very little in the official return, the year 1853 being estimated at (page 183) 131,007*l.*, while those for 1854 are estimated at 131,995*l.*: while, however, the return exhibits an increase in the imports from the United States, it also exhibits a considerable falling off of the imports from the United Kingdom. But owing to the number of vessels wrecked in the Bahamas, principally with merchandise from the United States, which necessarily interferes with the importation of similar goods from Great Britain, the latter importations necessarily fluctuate.

At page 204, under a new head of return introduced, viz., "Remarks on Squatting," these remarks pointing out the mode of checking it in the Bahamas, are made by the Surveyor General of the colony.

At page 216, under the new head "Charitable Institutions," it will be seen that the number of paupers in the year 1854 was 146, of whom 40 were inmates of the New Providence Asylum.

In the recapitulation it appears, at page 142, that 3,105*l.* was paid in 1854 by Great Britain (exclusive of lighthouses and military expenditure), and 26,259*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* by the colony.

(Signed) C. R. NESBITT,
Colonial Secretary and Administrator of the Government to 10th Oct. 1854.

Government House, Nassau, May 1855.

Having been appointed Governor of the Bahamas on the 7th June 1854, and assumed the government of the colony on the 10th of October of the same year, I postpone, until a future opportunity, to offer any observations on the state of the colony.

A. BANNERMAN,
Governor.

TURKS ISLANDS.

[*The usual Annual Report has not been received from Turks Islands.*]

TRINIDAD.

No. 10.

No. 10.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Elliot to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 50.)

Trinidad, June 1, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 9, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of this colony for the year 1854.

It will be noticed with satisfaction that notwithstanding the languid state of trade during 1854, and the almost entire interruption of transactions during the months of August, September, and October, consequent upon the epidemic, that the revenue of the whole year 1854, 101,647*l.* covered the whole disbursements, 101,016*l.*, by 631*l.*

In the taxation of the colony there has been no increase or alteration since I assumed the government.

In 1853 the expenditure amounted to 119,231*l.* In 1854 it fell, as above stated, to 101,016*l.*, exhibiting a decreased charge in 1854 of 18,215*l.* This decline of expense is attributable chiefly to the completion of the Port of Spain Waterworks, from the rates of which an income of 1,800*l.* is now derived. That income, I am happy to say, is gradually increasing. The fixed and other expenses of the colony have also been reduced, and economy in those directions will be carried still further in the current year. I am pleased to add that the revenue of the first four months of this year, compared with the same period of 1854, exhibits an increase of 4,000*l.*, under the heads of income available for the general service of the colony, and of nearly 7,000*l.* of revenues set apart for immigration purposes.

The exports during the years 1852, 1853, and 1854 are shown in the annexed table. The falling off in the export of molasses finds its explanation in the increase of the export of rum. In the current year there will probably be an increase in the export of cocoa as compared with 1854; but it is to be apprehended that the sugar crop will be much less, owing to the extraordinary prevalence of heavy rains throughout a period of the year when a passing shower is a rare event. The increased difficulty and cost of production attributable to that circumstance, the shortness of labour supply, owing to cholera, and the very limited introduction of Coolies in 1854, joined to the low prices of sugar in the home markets, will press formidably on the planting interest connected with this colony. I should fail in justice to those gentlemen if I omitted to acknowledge the constancy and strict economy with which all these accumulated difficulties are combated. No class of the Queen's subjects engaged in a precarious business at the best, where no profits are to be made, extraordinary or ordinary, without the risk of a fortune from year to year, have a sounder claim to the sympathy of the Government and the people of England than the West Indian proprietary. It is a distressing reflection that their depressed condition is in a high degree attributable to the vigorously extended prosecution of the Slave Trade in Cuba and Porto Rico since the relaxation of the foreign sugar duties. I venture to express the opinion that it would be a great boon to the West Indian proprietary, in the present state of the manufacturing processes in the colonies, if they were permitted to refine their sugar in bond, and I cannot conceive that any relaxation would be more consistent with those sound principles of commercial policy which are happily now so well settled.

In the year 1854 important modifications have been made under the ordinances Nos. 14 and 15 in the modes of managing the local concerns and roads of the colony, leaving, however, the principle of the territorial legislation

TRINIDAD.

undisturbed. By the ordinance No. 14, conveniently contiguous wards have been formed into ward unions, and placed under the administration of a single warden instead of one to each ward, as was originally the case. Thus we have now ten paid officers, with all their time at the public disposal, instead of forty-one gentlemen pursuing their private avocations and receiving an allowance of 100*l.* per annum for such service as it might be in their power to afford. The wardens of unions are paid partly by fixed salary, varying according to the importance of their unions, and partly by a commission on the rates recovered by them without recourse to sales of property by decree of the Court of Intendant.

By the ordinance No. 15 the distinction between what was called royal roads and ward roads has been abolished, and the whole roads of the colony placed under the management of local boards, consisting of the wardens of the respective unions, and the auditors of the several wards elected by the ratepayers. A central road board, presided over by the Governor, has also been formed in the nature of a board of control and general supervision. That board, sitting at Port of Spain twice a month, oversees the accounts of the local boards, and no contract can be entered into by the local boards without its previous consent—a healthy check upon any tendency to local partiality. But the principle which governs the central board is to leave the whole detail management of the roads to the local bodies, and never to interpose in that management unless the local board should fall into a dead-lock from some irreconcileable dispute and equal division of votes. It should be mentioned that there is an appeal to the central board, under due notice of protest, by any dissenting auditor at the local boards.

The salutary effects of these changes in this material body of legislation have been marked. Till lately it formed a source of constant jar between the Government and the outlying portions of the community, but I am happy to be able to report that the ordinances under consideration have given steadily increasing satisfaction amongst all classes of the people.

I have taken all the pains in my power to select gentlemen of the best experience and abilities I could find, not otherwise occupied, for the important offices of wardens of unions, and I entertain the hope that this improved local administration of extended areas of country and population will train the people in habits of intelligent and vigilant supervision of their own affairs and funds, and gradually furnish safe and convenient means of introducing a due admixture of the representative principle into the constitution of the council of Government. The charge of the new system is less burdensome on the local revenues than that it has replaced, and it will, of course, be understood that the wardens of unions have accepted office on the understanding that they are not to be entitled to retiring allowances, and are strictly considered local officers.

2. I annex a table showing the total amount of local taxation collected during 1854, distinguishing the different kinds of culture, the number of ratepayers in each kind, and the numbers rated within the limits specified in the columns of the table. It will be seen from this table how extensively the burden of local taxation falls upon the sugar planter.

The reports which I invited on the subject of cholera shall be transmitted when they are printed. The total loss in this colony, so far as the returns can be relied upon, estimating the population at 75,000 souls, was between five and six per cent. The total extraordinary expense was 8,000*l.*, one moiety of which will fall on the general funds of the colony, and the other on those of the towns and wards. With the strict economy which I shall continue to carry into every branch of the administration, and further disaster of pestilence or other unforeseen general calamity apart, I see no reason to doubt that I shall be able to cover this charge of 4,000*l.* in the course of the current year.

I have no other observation to make on the prospects of education in this colony, than to assure your Lordship that the system Lord Harris hoped to establish shall have my best support. I greatly wish that it may meet the success it deserves, for it is wisely founded on generous principles. But it is not to be denied that the mixture of races, creeds, and tongues in this community expose all plans for educating the people to all the well known difficulties and obstructions in such matters in their most exaggerated forms. In some quarters, I regret to say, there appears to be a settled dislike to instruct the children in the English language, but I must not omit to add the assured belief that the

Roman catholic clergy, being British subjects, will wisely and zealously do what they can to correct this pernicious prejudice.

In the report with which Lord Harris accompanied the "Blue Book" of 1853, he noticed the arrival of 1,000 Chinese in this colony. Owing in a great degree to the unfortunate omission to send interpreters with these immigrants, there has been much difficulty in their management; neither must I omit to say, that the people, speaking generally, are either of a bad or an ineligible description. I am well acquainted with the Chinese, and it is plain to me that the immigrants to this colony are for the most part the refuse of town populations, and not persons brought up to rural pursuits. We have received an intelligent interpreter in the course of the last year, and the people are now working much more satisfactorily, but still I did not find that there was any such general disposition amongst the planters to increase the immigration from China as to warrant any application for another supply from thence. It is a remarkable circumstance connected with the Coolie immigration, that 144 Coolies, who have just returned to Bengal in the ship "Scindia," carried with them 14,000 dollars in silver, and it is said considerably more in gold, concealed about their persons. Many of them left the colony with the declaration that they would return with some of their relatives and friends. I cannot answer for their sincerity.

I am happy to report that we have now commenced to work the valuable mora forest, which formed the subject of my Despatches Nos. 65 and 83, 1854, and I am without doubt that we shall soon lay down all the timber for our public works at Port of Spain and San Fernando at a diminished cost of upwards of 50 per cent., and gradually open out a source of extended trade with the mother country in a description of durable timber well suited to the more expensive and heavier parts of shipbuilding, and especially to the extensive submarine operations going on in England for the construction and improvement of harbours. I have seen no timber in my service better adapted for piles and other underwater works than the mora of this island. If I can procure the freight at a sufficiently moderate rate, I shall ship one hundred logs to London by an early occasion of the dimensions specified in the memorandum of the Admiralty transmitted in Sir George Grey's Despatch No. 54. 16th November.

Our gaol accommodation and means of employing the prisoners at Port of Spain and San Fernando are inadequate. This serious inconvenience is necessarily increasing with the rapidly increasing Coolie immigration, forming a considerable part of our occasional prison occupants. A far more disquieting subject of reflection is the increase of juvenile offenders, certainly no source of surprise when it is remembered that large proportions of the population at Port of Spain and San Fernando have no means of steady employment, and a very steady disinclination to seek them in field labour. Lasting evil consequences must ensue to the whole community if this deplorable proneness of the youth to idleness and a life of mixed squalor and dissipation in the towns is not temparately but firmly checked.

With the hope to abate this mischievous tendency, I propose to establish a corrective industrial juvenile establishment, something in the nature of the school at "La Mettraye," on the La Paix estate, belonging to the Crown, said to be a healthy situation in the close vicinity of the mora forest in the Bay of Trois. With the abundance of durable material on the spot, the necessary buildings may be set up at a trifling charge. Removing juvenile offenders in this way from the pernicious influence of gaol associations, where they are often surrounded by large numbers of Asiatics, ignorant Africans, and hardened felons, as well as from the neighbourhood of the towns, for periods of more or less duration according to the nature and degree of their offence, I trust that it may be practicable to combine steady training in habits of continuous industry with sound moral instruction under an efficient schoolmaster and mistress. Their religious instruction will of course be provided for by the occasional visits of ministers of the form of faith to which they belong. They should be taught and compelled to grow their own ground provisions, and trained to useful trades, and might otherwise be profitably employed in dimi nishing the charge of the establishment by cording firewood, and making shingles and staves—sure of sale in this colony, with good returns. The girls would require to be sedulously trained in useful arts of domestic economy, and

habits of cleanliness and neatness—too little understood or practised amongst the poorer classes in this community. I need not remark that I should not venture to recommend to the council the establishment of a juvenile corrective depôt at "La Paix," or elsewhere, until we had satisfactory proof of the healthiness of the position.

It is my intention, however, as an experimental measure, to locate near the Trois Forest a small establishment of steadily behaved adult male prisoners, who have served more than half their time, with the prospect of favourable consideration as respects release and some gratuity at the period of discharge, according to behaviour and industry, sending back any defaulter to the gaol at Port of Spain for the whole of the remainder of his sentence. By this modification of the system of "ticket-of-leave," and taking care only to employ at the forest depôt old and steadily conducted prisoners, under the hope of early release, according to correct behaviour, I trust there will be little need of burdensome police surveillance. They would be very useful in working the forest for the benefit of the colony.

In closing this report I cannot but express my surprise that the remarkable indications of valuable and varied mineralogical resources in this island have never formed the subject of any kind of systematic scientific research. It would be more correct to say of those indications that it would be remarkable if they did not present themselves than it is to meet with them in a region where we have a lake of bitumen fed by innumerable springs and discharging itself into the sea in an ever-running stream of pitch, where mud volcanos exist, never in a state of complete quiescence, and sometimes bursting out with great force and loud noises, and where shocks of earthquakes are frequent though slight. These and other proofs of incessant subterranean commotion at scarcely the thickness of the soles of our shoes, and the structure of the mountain chains in the north, the east, and the south of the island, amply explain the existence of quicksilver, and of copper and iron ores, specimens of which have certainly and frequently been found in this island.

I trust that Her Majesty's Government will be pleased to authorize me to cause such scientific investigation to be made into the mineralogical resources of the island as may be within my reach, taking care that the charge for this service should be prudently limited by due regard to the financial condition of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

RETURN of Articles exported from the Colony during the Years 1852, 1853, and 1854.

Articles.	1852.	1853.		1854.	
Sugar - - lbs.	37,442,972	48,020,613		50,055,998	
Molasses - gals.	361,067	1.201,019		782,401	
Rum - „	73,635	99,834		285,446	
Cocoa - - lbs.	6,823,695	4,904,719		3,379,159	
Coffee - - „	258,442	64,849		58,934	
Cotton - - „	18,800	Bales 16	Sers. 546	Bales 397	Sers. 20
Sundries - £ sterling	6,932	6,043		3,732	

The total Amount of Local Taxation for the Year ended the 31st December 1854, received under the Warden's Ordinance, was 17,874*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* Of this Amount there is paid as follows: 11,249*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*; the difference being made up of Spirit Licences collected for Ward Purposes, and of Land in provisions attached to Sugar Estates.

Nature of Cultivation.	Acreage.	Number of Ratepayers.	Total Amount in Rates Sterling.	Number of Ratepayers paying			
				Sp.d. 1·20 or 5*s.* sterling and under.	From Sp.d. 1·20 or 5*s.* to Sp.d. 250 or 52*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*	From Sp.d. 250 or 52*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* to Sp.d. 500 or 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*	From Sp.d. 500 or 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* to Sp.d. 750 or 156*l.* 5*s.* and over.
			£ *s.* *d.*				
In Sugar - -	29,250	318	6,468 18 6	46	226	43	3
In Cocoa, Coffee, and Cotton - -	11,394	1,825	2,757 0 0	369	1,455	1	Nil.
In Provisions - -	8,520	3,693	2,023 9 4	1,650	2,043	Nil.	Nil.
	49,164	5,836	11,249 7 10	2,065	3,724	44	3

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 11.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Honourable Sir William Molesworth, Bart.

(No. 125.) Government House, Georgetown, September 7, 1855.

(Received October 3, 1855.)

Sir,

I do myself the honour of transmitting to you the Blue Book for the colony of British Guiana, for 1854.

Revenue and Expenditure.

On reference to the comparative yearly statement of the revenue for the years 1853 and 1854, it will be seen that there is an apparent falling off in the latter year of 31,315*l.* The real deficiency, however, is no more than 750*l.*, and the difference is easily to be accounted for as follows: In both years the sums received from immigration loan funds are set down as revenue, they being in reality nothing more than sums borrowed, to be repaid at some future period. In 1853 no less than 61,175*l.* was thus borrowed, but in 1854 only 30,610*l.*, that is, 30,565*l.* less; and if this last sum be deducted from the apparent deficiency on the total revenue, there will be a balance of no more than 750*l.*

Of the other items in the statement there are few that require notice. On the wine and spirit duties there is a falling off of 15,138*l.*, attributable to considerable importations in 1853, immediately before the increased rates of duty (fixed by the combined Court of that year) took effect, and likewise to the stagnation of trade consequent on the great rise in the prices of wines and spirits on the continent of Europe.

The increase of 5,805*l.* on the general import duties arises from the fact, that since the 1st July 1853 the duty levied upon ad valorem goods has been fixed at ten instead of four per cent.; while the increase of 2,033*l.* upon the produce export tax may be traced to a considerable portion of the crop of 1853, intended for shipment during that year, having been detained for a time, owing to the scarcity of tonnage.

The comparative statement of expenditure shows a decrease of 7,973*l.*, but it would be wrong to take this as a proof in itself of the economical administration of the finances, inasmuch as the expenditure for immigration fell off to the amount of 11,264*l.*, to the loss rather than to the benefit of the colony. In 1854, on the other hand, we paid 5,125*l.* for the interest and sinking fund of

loans over and above the sums paid for those services in 1853; but the sums paid in each year were of course in strict proportion to the debt owing by the colony at the time. Generally speaking, I am enabled to state that all ill-advised expenditure of the public money is, as far as practicable, avoided.

Public Works.

No new works of importance were undertaken during 1854, but an important change has been effected in the management of them. Until 1854 the charge of all the public buildings was vested in a commission of gentlemen, unpaid and practically irresponsible; but in the course of that year the Legislature were induced to abolish the commission and to provide for the employment of a paid responsible civil engineer,—a change, of the prudence of which every day has afforded additional proof.

Legislation.

Twenty-five ordinances have been passed by the Colonial Legislature during the year. Ordinances Nos. 1 and 2, relating to the relief of the poor, have since, at the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, been repealed and consolidated. Ordinance No. 7, for the general regulation of immigration and of the immigrants, was passed after a prolonged correspondence between the several Secretaries of State and the Local Government. Various enactments had during the course of several previous years been passed and partially or totally repealed, while during the same time resolutions had been passed by the combined Court, which, though not really possessing the force of law, had been permitted to interfere in practice with the ordinances themselves. The natural result was extreme confusion and uncertainty in all the relations subsisting between the immigrants and their employers, to the real benefit of neither party, but to the positive detriment of both; and a final settlement of the points in dispute had come to be regarded as a matter of the deepest importance to the colony. The ordinance has been in full operation since the commencement of this year, and is universally admitted to have effected a great improvement. Ordinance No. 12, for the establishment of dispensaries and provision of medical attendance in the villages, was passed in the hope of checking the loss of life, particularly of children, universally believed to take place among the Creole population settled in villages of their own creation. It has not yet been found practicable to bring it into active operation, although the design has by no means been abandoned. This is, in fact, one of the many features of the present condition of the Creoles, which cannot but be viewed with much anxiety, but for the improvement of which it is at this late period very difficult to devise plans.

Ordinance No. 25 provides for the management of the penal settlement, a large convict establishment situated on one of the branches of the Essequibo River, which has been in existence for several years, though without any law having been passed for its control. Perhaps the only part of the present Bill which requires notice here, is that which relates to the release of prisoners on tickets of leave, at the expiration of four years or upwards.

The Bill gives them no positive right to them; but the Governor is invested with a power to grant them, at his discretion, to such men as are likely, from their conduct while in gaol, and from their previous habits of life, to prove themselves deserving of mercy. The men thus released are required, during the whole time for which the ticket remains in force, to enter into indentures of service from year to year with some employers, and are bound to appear once in every quarter before a magistrate. They are likewise liable to be sent back to the settlement on their original sentences, if convicted after their release of any offence.

But few have yet been set at large under the ordinance, but against none of them has any complaint been made. I am not aware of any other subjects upon which it is now necessary for me to remark.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
Sir William Molesworth, Bart.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

BARBADOS.

No. 12.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 46.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes,
June 9, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 29, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward the Barbados "Blue Book" for 1854.

Finances.

The condition of the island in the last year was so seriously affected in consequence of the severity of the drought which prevailed, and the sufferings of the people from scarcity of provisions, followed by the sudden outbreak of epidemic cholera, that in reporting on the finances it is impossible to institute any comparison of the returns with those of the preceding year. The public disbursements in providing for the support of the indigent, the care of the sick, and the interment of the dead, far exceeded the resources of the colony, and led for a time to the suspension of the public works in progress.

From the abstract appended it will be seen that the revenue, which in 1853 amounted to 61,552*l.*, in 1854 amounted to 59,142*l.*, while the expenditure of 1854 amounted to 71,227*l.* A loan of 10,000*l.* was obtained from the Colonial Bank, to redeem which and to meet the public demands additional taxes and duties have been imposed in the present year.

Public Works.

It is creditable to the legislature under these circumstances that the public works were resumed as soon as it was practicable, and I have had the satisfaction to report the completion of the new gaol at a cost of 28,000*l.*, and also a survey to determine the practicability of supplying Bridgetown and the shipping in Carlisle Bay with fresh water from springs on the opposite side of the island.

New Gaol.

The new gaol, of which a plan and elevation is annexed, has been constructed in a manner to provide for the introduction of the system of discipline in force in the prisons at Pentonville and Portland. It contains separate accommodation for seventy-two male prisoners, and the area enclosed will admit of the enlargement of the prison within the walls, and the construction of a separate penitentiary for females, which is much required.

Waterworks.

The estimated cost of the waterworks, of which the report and plan are appended, is 68,277*l.* This capital it has been proposed to raise on the credit of the island, and to redeem in fifteen years.

Harbour Light.

The only other public work contemplated is the erection of a harbour light in Carlisle Bay, for which provision has been made by the legislature.

Military Expenses.

To the extraordinary expenses of the last year may chiefly be ascribed the delay in providing for the reorganization of the militia, but the subject occupies the attention of the legislature.

The concentration of the troops of the command has augmented the strength of the garrison; and, aided by the resources of the colony, its defence will be adequately provided for.

Legislation.

Of the legislation in the last year, the most important acts were those for the government and establishment of the prisons, for the substitution of other punishments in lieu of transportation, and for the establishment of a central sugar factory and model farm. Resolutions have been passed by the legislature for establishing, in connexion with the other windward colonies, a court of appeal under the Act of Parliament (13 & 14 Vict c. 15.)

Legislative Bodies.

The constitution of the island legislature has not undergone any change. Much inconvenience having been found to attend the local administration by numerous boards composed of members of the legislative bodies, a proposal for their consolidation is now under consideration.

Civil Establishment.

The only material change in the civil establishment has been in the appointment by act of the legislature of a judge of the minor court of appeal, whose office is held during good behaviour.

Population.

Of the population of the island, the mortality in the last year from cholera has been estimated at 18,000, and as 135,939 were returned at the census of 1851, with an annual rate of increase of one six-tenths per cent. on the population of 1844, the numbers may be considered to have been reduced in the last year to 124,568, or to the level of the population of 1845, about 750 to the square mile.

Condition of the Peasantry.

Some remarks having recently been published by the Honourable Grant E. Thomas, M.D., on the effects of the cholera in Barbados, and the facts it has elicited in regard to the condition of the negro peasantry, I append an extract of his address to an agricultural society of which he is the president; and as Dr. Thomas has held out a practical example of the salutary influence which a humane and liberal landlord can exert, he has a claim to the attention of those who from their absence may be unconscious of the evils which in a material degree are attributable to the neglect or mismanagement of their agents, and which, if not corrected in time, would result in the disorganization of the country.

Barbados is well known to constitute an exception to the other West India Colonies in the possession, if not of a redundant at least of a sufficient population, as attested by the fact that so great a mortality in the last year has not sensibly affected the labour market.

Dr. Thomas has alluded in his address to the loose habits which are prevalent amongst the peasantry; to their scanty attire, their wretched tenements, and to their practice of crowding in them without regard to age or sex; to the dissipation of their resources by some, and to the hoarding of them by others, with a view to the purchase of land, while their children are neglected; evils which are aggravated by the desertion of the plantations for employment in jobbing gangs under profligate leaders. On the other hand, he has borne testimony to the exemplary conduct of many during the cholera. But to whatever extent such injurious habits prevail, their correction must in a great measure depend on the proprietors, who, besides contributing to the support of schools on their estates, should provide for the removal of the wretched hovels of their peasantry, and for the erection of suitable cottages for their occupation under leasehold tenures.

The practice of imposing double rents for their allotments when labour is withheld should be discontinued, and which, although submitted to from the strength of their local attachments, is a subject of general complaint with the negroes.

That the evils engendered by slavery should have been entailed on the present generation is less surprising than that so many of them should have been

surmounted in the last twenty years, and that the disposition of the peasantry is so favourable for the correction of those which remain; but without the aid of the proprietors it will be in vain to expect that the progress of disorganization can be arrested, and however much may be done by the legislature for the encouragement of education and the reformation of criminals, these measures, without such co-operation, must be ineffectual.

It is well known that the victims of the Slave Trade have, with few exceptions, been drawn from the most peaceable and inoffensive of the African tribes, and that the fidelity of the native African has been generally proverbial in the West Indies; and it is now abundantly evident that if the white and black races had orginally been suffered to grow up together in the possession of equal rights, and free from the prejudices of caste and colour, these colonies possessing a moral and intelligent mixed population, might have been the most prosperous and civilized dependencies of the Crown; but although their improvement has been retarded, it has still been progressive; and if the popular institutions of the colonies should be preserved and improved, their future welfare may be ultimately established on a stable and durable foundation.

Political Franchises.

In some colonies the electors are in full possession of the common law qualification, but in others, even where property in land can easily be acquired, the franchise is much restricted. In Barbados, where from the high price of land it is difficult of attainment, there are 1,380 registered electors in a population of 124,000, and of them only 76 voted at the last annual elections in returning 24 members to the assembly. It is probable, however, that there would have been a larger number of voters if the elections had been contested.

Although I have from time to time recommended some local reforms, with a view to facilitate the transaction of the public business, and especially in the formation of separate Executive Councils, I have not considered it advisable to advocate any material changes in the constitution of the local assemblies; but if the non-resident proprietors would unite with those who are resident in the colonies, and take a leading part in their affairs, the convention of a general legislature would afford an opportunity for enlarging the constituencies under the most favourable circumstances, and the dedication of a few weeks annually to the business of the session could not be considered an undue claim on their services.

Municipal Incorporation.

The preservation and extension of the municipal privileges of the several communities would also be desirable as a means of fostering the principles of local self-government, and concentrating the attention of the legislatures upon objects of general importance,—the revival of credit, the public defence, the improvement and assimilation of the laws and their administration, the condition of the poor, the extension of education, the freedom of commerce, and others in which the inhabitants of every class are interested.

Barbados, as a commercial entrepôt, and the most populous and advanced of these communities, would form the most favourable position for the assemblage of a general legislature; and any three or more of these colonies might unite with advantage at the outset, under the provisions of an Act of Parliament, so framed as to enable them by auxiliary enactments to participate in the privileges accorded by it, as they might be led to appreciate the importance of united action on matters of common interest between them.

Agriculture and Commerce.

The agriculture and commerce of the island are so reciprocally dependent on each other that they may be considered together. I have in former Reports alluded to the extension of sugar planting with the gradual reduction of the duties in Great Britain. The sugar, molasses, and rum exported in 1853 were valued at 603,671*l.*, and the whole of the exports, deducting for goods re-exported not being the produce of the colony, at 612,583*l.*

In 1854 the sugar, &c. exported was valued at 783,833*l*, and the entire exports, 793,755*l.* deducting, as before, for goods re-exported.

BARBADOS.

From the reduction of the Imperial Customs Establishment in the last year, and the method adopted in keeping the accounts of the colonial customs, the value of the goods imported liable to specific duties has not been returned in detail; the aggregate value, however, of the imports has been 596,843*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, while the shipping employed amounted to 95,931 tons inwards, and 89,188 outwards, manned by 5,943 seamen.

The dependence of these colonies for a large part of the subsistence of the people on the United States, and the high duties there imposed on the produce of the colonies, render it of importance to re-encourage a trade with British North America, upon terms reciprocally advantageous; and the repeal which has been proposed of the duties on bread stuffs and other supplies imported from Canada on the admission there of produce of this colony free of duty, will lead, it is hoped, to a trade beneficial to both countries.

Gaols and Prisons.

I have alluded to the completion and occupation of the new gaol, and I have much satisfaction in reporting that it has been attended with salutary effects on the conduct of the male prisoners confined in it, and that the adoption of the provisions of the Act of Parliament for substituting other punishment in lieu of transportation has given increased effect to the reformatory system of discipline already successfully in operation. The number of offenders, which in 1853 was 2,749, in 1854 was 1,866. I greatly regret that no means have yet been provided for the separate confinement of the female prisoners, and the application of the same reformatory principles to them.

The juvenile asylum for boys, in which they are employed at agricultural labour, has been satisfactorily conducted by the present superintendent, and has been the means of reclaiming some of its inmates from evil habits and associations. It has not been found practicable to carry out the provisions of the Act of Parliament for the establishment of reformatory schools to which they can be transferred.

Charitable Institutions.

Of the charitable institutions of the island there is a lunatic asylum containing forty-two patients under very efficient management, but the buildings are defective in construction and insufficient for their accommodation. There is also a colonial hospital supported by public and private contributions. I regret to report that no arrangements have hitherto been made for the establishment of a seamen's hospital. The Assembly has consented by resolution to apply a portion of the tonnage duties to this purpose, and from the large number of seamen who frequent the port—from 6,000 to 7,000 annually—their severe labour, and the long periods of their detention in a tropical climate, where epidemics frequently prevail, it is of importance that such a refuge in case of sickness should be available to them.

For the due protection of the seamen it would be of great advantage if an active and intelligent officer were to be appointed on full pay as naval officer to the port, and with permission to hold the office of deputy harbour master, with ultimate succession to that of harbour master when a vacancy occurred.

Education.

A central school, originally endowed by the legislature for the education of the children of the poor white inhabitants, has for some years been open also to the reception of black children. It is very efficiently conducted as a training school for teachers, of whom several have been brought forward, and are now in charge of parochial schools. A grammar school has lately been appended to this establishment, which is self-supporting; there is also another grammar school in the city endowed by the late Mr. Harrison. Codrington College, liberally endowed by the late General Codrington, contains at present eighteen students; a grammar school is attached to it, and a training school in connexion with the African Society, who are about to send a mission to the west coast of Africa.—(*See note.*)

These endowments, with other institutions, general and parochial, for the relief of orphans and aged or infirm persons, are creditable to the community of Barbados, and indicate a spirit which I hope may not be impaired through the absence of so many of the proprietors, or their neglect of the interests of the people, which it so essential to the welfare of the country and to their own that they should protect and promote.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Note.—The parochial schools were for the most part broken up through the prevalence of cholera in 1854, and the death of several of the teachers, in consequence of which the returns of them are inaccurate.

W. M. G. C.

BARBADOS.

ABSTRACT RETURN from "Blue Book" for 1854.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Other Incidental Receipts.	Total.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£		£	£	£	£	£
1853	41,835	Nil.	4,711	12,209	2,797	61,552	
1854	*35,762	Nil.	9,218	9,583	4,579	†59,142	2,410

* Amounts claimed for drawback not included.
† Exclusive of arrears of 8,282*l.* from 1853, and of loan of 10,000*l.*

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Public Buildings.	Legislative Grants.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853	8,258	7,034	7,535	2,674	16,412	2,725	8,908	5,578	9,075	†68,199	—
1854	9,545	7,366	7,020	1,882	16,231	3,335	6,103	2,277	*17,468	†71,227	3,028

* Includes cholera expenses.
† Exclusive of drawback.

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Poor.	Roads.	Total.
1853	No Accurate Returns.		
1854			

BARBADOS.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	The first column includes Governor and Private Secretary's salary, the Bishop and Archdeacon's, with payments to ministers and stipendiary magistrates. The second column includes all military expenses.
1853	10,000	75,220	85,220	
1854	10,150	70,275	80,425	

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.	
				Per Census of June 1851 -	135,939
1853	62,272	73,667	135,939	Ratio of increase at 1 6-10ths per annum to June 1854—	
1854	Estimated at - -		124,568	3 years - - -	6,629
					142,568
				Mortality in 1854 from cholera - - -	18,000
					124,568

Lands.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1853	166	100,000	It has been found impracticable without legislative assistance to obtain any accurate information on this subject.
1854	166	100,000	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1853	Estimated at 50,000*l.*	30,000*l.*	British constitutes almost the entire currency of the island. There is a limited circulation of British gold. The only paper currency is colonial bank notes.
1854	50,000*l.*	36,000*l.*	

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Remarks.
1853	49	—	26,844	—	No return of other denominations.
1854	49	—	26,726	—	No accurate return of average attendance.

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total.	Remarks.
1853	6,480	1,880	7,360	From Inspectors of Schools' Report.
1854				

Value in Sterling.

	Imports.				Exports.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign States.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign States.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853	312,119	94,175	165,019	571,313	607,550	153,605	14,164	775,319
1854	Not returned separately.			596,843	782,156	141,672	22,021	945,849

Shipping.

	Inwards.				Outwards.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign States.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign States.	Total.
1853	32,500	33,137	31,799	97,436	35,576	34,028	30,979	100,583
1854	3,567	27,324	34,500	95,391	37,927	27,566	23,695	89,188

Criminal and other Prisoners.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Decrease.	Debtors.
1853	1,520	893	215	121	2,749	—	31
1854	1,082	482	186	116	1,866	883	16

Water Supply, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Extracts from General Report.

Bridgetown.—Barbados is situated in a gently undulating plain of small extent, surrounded nearly by rising ground of moderate elevation, gradually shelving down to an open space on the south, where it is bounded by Carlisle Bay.

Soil.—The soil is in some places of a sandy, in others of a marly character, on a substratum of coral rock.

Population.—Bridgetown contains a population of 25,000 persons, exclusive of a dense population of at least 5,000 more residing in the immediate suburbs, but not within the limits of the city.

Sanitary Condition.—In regard to those important points affecting the public health, a supply of pure water, sewerage, surface drainage, judicious arrangement of streets, and proper construction of habitations, Bridgetown is lamentably defective. Few towns can offer a greater accumulation of evils, arising from the want of good sanitary measures, than this city.

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Water Supply.—First in the order of importance among the wants of Bridgetown is that of a good supply of pure water. At present it is precarious and insufficient; it is procured partly from wells, and partly from springs. The water from the wells is generally unfit for drinking, and is only used for cleansing purposes. That for drinking is procured from springs in the vicinity of the town, mostly from Beckles, where water is sold by the owner to persons who make a trade of carting it in casks to different parts of the town for sale.

The ordinary price of water is two cents for four gallons.

I have been informed that there are from twenty to thirty individuals with carts thus employed, who sell from 6,000 to 8,000 gallons of water daily. If this information be correct,—and from extended inquiry I see no reason to doubt it,—the inhabitants of Bridgetown pay from 2,000*l.* to 2,500*l.* sterling per annum for the privilege of being supplied with about a pint of drinkable water per head daily. From this state of things it results that this necessary of life is but scantily supplied to the poor, ill able to pay for a sufficient supply at the above rate, and that great privation is the consequence.

When such is the case with regard to water for drinking, it will be readily imagined that the use of the bath, that powerful means of sustaining and invigorating health in tropical climates, becomes an occasional luxury, instead of an habitual practice, and that the supply is utterly wanting to all efficient purposes of cleansing streets and yards, sewerage, and the suppression of fires.

Fires.—Among the secondary evils and inconveniences arising from a deficient supply of water to Bridgetown, its total insufficiency to meet the emergency of fire prominently exhibits itself. Almost every house in the town is covered with shingles, and thus that part of a building most exposed to sparks and burning embers, borne along by the wind during a conflagration, is constructed of the most inflammable materials. Owing to this structural defect and the want of water, fires in Bridgetown are wide-spread and destructive. A fire occurred in 1825, which destroyed a great number of houses in the south-east part of the town.

Another occurred in 1845, which burnt down all the houses covering an area of near ten acres of ground. The amount of property destroyed on this occasion may be estimated from the fact that the legislature purchased the land known as "the Burnt District," on which the houses stood, at a cost of 30,000*l.* sterling. Another fire occurred in 1853, but from its having taken place in the daytime, it was discovered before it had made much progress, and by timely vigorous exertion, principally on the part of the military, it was extinguished, and the most populous part of the town, at one time in great danger, was saved from destruction.

The machinery for the suppression of fires in Bridgetown consisted until lately of a fire brigade of eighteen men and six fire-engines, maintained at an annual cost of 850*l.* sterling. This amount was raised by a rate of 5*d.* in the pound on all rentals throughout the town. But the best organized force, and the most powerful fire-engines are of small avail without water; and it has been found in Bridgetown, that in case of fire the best, indeed the only protective measure, is to isolate the burning buildings by the destruction of the adjoining and neighbouring houses, and "to let the fire burn itself out," as the phrase is. It appears to me, however, that the only limits that could be placed on the ravages of a fire occurring in the eastern part of Bridgetown, with a strong breeze blowing, would be those of the town itself: it would inevitably be burnt down to the water's edge.

The Act establishing the fire brigade expired about two years ago, and has not been renewed. The duties of the men devolve on the police.

Streets.—Bridgetown appears to have been built without regard to any plan or system of arrangement. It abounds in narrow crooked streets and alleys and confined thoroughfares. A few of the streets have side pavements and gutters, but the greater number of them are without either. In some streets the sides of the houses form part of the gutter, and as they are built of a porous stone, absorption of moisture ensues in wet weather, with its inevitable consequence, damp unwholesome dwellings. From the malformation of most of the streets, and the general absence of gutters, the surface drainage is very defective, pools of water are formed during rain, and allowed to stagnate until the water is absorbed or evaporated.

Sewerage.—There is no system of sewerage in Bridgetown. Surface drainage and foul gutters are the means of relief from the house fluid refuse, open cesspools and moveable tubs receive the other kind. The former, generally shallow from water being met with near the surface, are emptied at the convenience of the proprietor of the house; the emptying of the latter is a nightly operation. By certain police regulations it is ordered that the night soil shall not be removed before nine o'clock at night nor after five o'clock in the morning, nor deposited in any place but the sea; but such are the dirty, indolent, and inconsiderate habits of the lower classes of Bridgetown, that to avoid the trouble of carrying it to the sea, the filth is thrown down in the streets and thoroughfares; in any place, in fact, where the absence of the police allows it to be done with impunity.

Both systems are intolerable nuisances; the cesspools saturate the soil with offensive matter, and poison the wells by infiltration, the cleansing of the tubs is a constant source of pollution to the streets, and to the sea in the immediate vicinity of the town. Thus, for want of a system of sewerage, the whole of the refuse of the city, invaluable in an

island like Barbados, where the poverty of the soil renders high manuring necessary, instead of being carefully collected and conveyed from the town and applied to agricultural purposes in the country, removing a cause of insalubrity from the one and converting it into the means of enduing the other with inexhaustible fertility, is thrown away and lost; while, at the same time, with singular inconsistency, large quantities of an inferior sort of manure are at great expense annually imported into the island.

Scavenging.—The subject of scavenging is closely connected with that of sewerage, inasmuch as both have the same object in view, the removal of dirt from the town.

The scavenging of Bridgetown is very defective; it is either not done at all, or it is performed at the wrong time. I have seen accumulations of dirt allowed to remain in the same spot, and stagnant filth in the same gutter during weeks, in certain parts of the town, whilst in others I have observed labourers employed in collecting the refuse and carting it away, not in the morning early, before the traffic has commnced, as should be done, but at midday, when its removal becomes a nuisance instead of an advantage, and when, besides, dirt accumulates as fast as it is removed.

The scavenging and repairing of streets are under the control of the Health Commission, composed of the members of the assembly for the city and parish, and five members of the vestry. The city is divided into four districts, and to each district is attached an inspector, whose duty is to superintend the scavenging and cleansing of the streets, to inspect yards and houses, and to give information of all nuisances with the view to their abatement. A distinct officer, an inspector of roads and streets, is charged with the duty of repairing the streets. Yet, notwithstanding all this machinery, involving considerable expense, nuisances of all descriptions abound in Bridgetown—streets exceedingly dirty, and ill kept, and generally in a very bad state of repair.

Crowded State of Dwellings.—Among the causes injurious to health in Bridgetown is the crowded state of the houses of the lower orders. Extending right and left of narrow alleys are found yards and courts filled with wretched little wooden tenements, clustered together so thickly as to render ventilation and solar exposure utterly impossible. The crowded state of these huts is indescribable. In a report to the Governor on the condition of these places during cholera, Dr. Reeves, a medical practitioner in Bridgetown, states, "I have seen eleven children and six adults occupying a dilapidated wooden tene-" ment eighteen feet by eleven feet four, or six persons were ordinarily found inhabiting " one half the size." Dr. Clarke, in a report on the same subject, notices the crowded condition of the houses, and alludes to the habit of the lower orders, of studiously excluding from their dwellings all admission of air at night.

It appears that the cholera has produced no change in the overcrowding of these clusters of tenements. They are, of course, unprovided with adequate convenience for health, decency, and cleanliness. A necessary common to the whole yard and generally in a very offensive condition—a surface drain in the centre or on one side in the same state—bones and the rejected portions of animal food, parings of vegetables, old rags, and all sorts of refuse scattered about, present a picture true of all these places, of surprising dirtiness and discomfort.

In certain districts, Rebitt's Ground and Church Village, inhabited by the poorer classes, all the evils of structural defects in the houses, and of imperfect drainage and sewerage, are found in an aggravated degree. From the lowness of the site, and from the general level character of the streets, narrow, unpaved, and without gutters, the drainage is very bad—in fact, there is none; here the ground is in a foul state of saturation, and offensive refuse stagnates on all sides.

As with the streets so with the houses, the worst are in this locality. There are to be found thickly packed together the most miserable wooden huts, in all states of dilapidation and decay—low, dark, dirty, and unventilated, destitute of all appliances for decency and cleanliness; some with the floors resting on the ground absorbing its contaminating moisture, others sufficiently raised to allow of the accumulation of refuse under them, but without affording the means of access to remove it. The condition of these places is bad in the extreme; they must be hotbeds of disease, and I am informed that, in comparison with others, they suffered most from cholera during the late visitation.

Graveyards in the City.—The practice of interring the dead in graveyards situate in the heart of crowded cities has been shown to be fraught with so many evils, physical and moral, converting places, the sight and contemplation of which should cherish those feelings of reverence which Christians entertain for the dead, into nuisances which outrage those feelings, while they offend the senses and endanger health, that it is a matter of surprise that it should still be adopted in Bridgetown. The scenes described to me as having been witnessed in some of these graveyards are too disgusting and dreadful to dwell upon. Of all the nuisances in Bridgetown this is the most inexcusable, the means of prevention being so easy of attainment.

Constitution River.—Another cause of insalubrity is the Constitution River, forming the southern boundary of the city. This stream, subject to tidal action for about a mile from its mouth, is the drainage pan of an extensive district lying to the north and east

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of Bridgetown. In fine weather the bed of the river is dry above the town, but during heavy rains it becames a rapid torrent. Where it skirts the town, it is the receptacle of a large amount of filth, thrown into it by those residing on its banks, and the turbid mass moved backwards and forwards, and kept in a constant state of commotion by the tide, is a fruitful source of noxious exhalation.

From the preceding observations it appears, that in Bridgetown a deficient and impure supply of water, imperfect surface drainage, no sewerage, ill-constructed and crowded dwellings for the living—graveyards for the dead in the heart of the city, thus crowding the dead with the living, crooked, narrow, unpaved, and undrained streets, accumulations of dirt in all directions, are the evils arising from the want of good sanitary measures. No wonder that in a community living in such utter neglect of the laws of nature and of the means furnished by the Act to obviate the evils attendant upon the congregation of large masses of people in confined spots, disorders should be rife, and that epidemics, when they do appear, should assume a fearfully aggravated form.

Nor let it be concluded (as I have heard advanced, whether rightly or wrongly I am unable to state, no general registry of births and deaths being kept in the island), that because the mortality in Bridgetown does not present a strongly marked disproportion as compared with that of the country districts, the standard of health is not unnaturally low. But if the fact were as stated a very slight acquaintance with sanitary statistics teaches us that even when the mortality is not largely increased by the bad sanitary condition of town, its evil effects upon the inhabitants are not the less plainly exhibited in the general ill state of habit of the masses, in the reduction and depression of their physical powers, in their increased susceptibility to causes of disease, and in the gradual degeneracy of successive generations into weak enfeebled creatures, precocious in depravity, averse to labour, and corrupted by the general filth and uncleanness around them.

Of this description I am led to believe were thousands of those who were lately swept off by cholera in Bridgetown, and no evidence more conclusive could be found of the deteriorated condition of the public health than the fact, undeniable and well established, that in proportion to the population of the different towns the mortality of Bridgetown from cholera was more than twice or thrice as great as that which occurred in Port of Spain, Trinidad; Castries, St. Lucia; and St. George's, Grenada—all of them, it is worthy of remark, being supplied with waterworks.

Remedial Measures.—The most efficient remedies for the evils which affect the salubrity of Bridgetown are, the acquisition of a supply of good water, the construction of a complete system of underground sewers, the improvement of the streets, and the formation of proper gutters to obtain good surface drainage, and the enforcement of such building regulations as shall secure the construction of suitable habitations for all classes.

Water Supply.—The water supply should be sufficient, not only for the ordinary wants of the inhabitants, but for all purposes of cleansing yards, drains, &c.

The water service should be constant, that is, the pipes should always be charged, and under sufficient pressure to force the water into the highest story of the loftiest building, and also for the purpose of obtaining a jet that would throw the water over the highest edifice in the city in case of fire.

The sources whence a supply of water could be obtained for Bridgetown are—1st. Beckler's Spring; 2d. Pory's Spring; 3d. Spring in Cole's Cave; 4th. Spring at Codrington College.

To use Beckles' Spring it would be necessary to pump the water to one of the neighbouring heights, as the spring issues from the ground, on the same level as the lowest part of the town.

From the liability of all machinery to derangement, and from the scarcity of skilled labour in the island, and the consequent difficulty of getting it repaired without great expense and great delay, there would be constant interruption in the supply attended by a want of water in the town. Another objection to pumping is the heavy annual expenses it entails for fuel for the engine, repairs, &c.

The cost of supplying the town with 420,000 gallons of water daily from Beccles' Spring would be,—Establishment of works, 16,000*l.*; annual working expenses, 900*l.*, independent of compensation to the owner of the spring, which would be considerable.

Moreover, the quantity supplied would be insufficient—the supply required being at least 700,000 gallons. The cost of leading into Bridgetown the water from Pory's Cole's Cave and Codrington College Springs would be,—Establishment of works, 51,000*l.*; annual working expenses, 200*l.*

These three springs would afford a supply of 850,000 gallons delivered under high pressure, the elevation of the lowest of these springs being 348 feet above high-water mark, or about 335 feet above the highest part of Bridgetown. This supply of water would be ample for all purposes; it would afford 500,000 gallons for domestic use, 150,000

for flushing sewers, 100,000 for cleansing streets and gutters, and 150,000 gallons for public baths and washhouses.

These latter establishments would be of the highest utility in Bridgetown. The only bathing place at present for the people is the sea, to which, of course, they cannot resort except at an early hour, and out of the limits of the town—hence the inconvenience.

Two bath houses for men and women, provided with plunge baths situated in different parts of the town, might be constructed for 1,250*l.* each, and would be a simple means of creating and fostering habits of personal cleanliness among the lower orders.

A slight charge might be made for the convenience, to cover the expenses of superintendence.

The erection of wash-houses will be a matter of necessity. The present practice is for forty or fifty women to get into a pond of turbid water, and to wash all their clothes together, a method much too inconvenient and dirty to be tolerated, when having an ample supply of water suitable accommodation can be afforded. The cost of two wash-houses will be 2,000*l.* sterling.

Sewers.—The system of sewerage I propose is that of earthen or stone-ware pipes. All the house refuse, including the contents of waterclosets, will be delivered by private drains into the main sewers, and conveyed to reservoirs situated in convenient spots beyond the town, when it can be converted into manure for agricultural purposes or allowed to rush into the sea. The sewers will be so constructed as to admit of a concentrated supply of water being directed into them, for the purpose of flushing or scouring them to prevent deposit.

They will also be so arranged as to assist in draining the surface where necessary, although I am of opinion that more good would be effected by allowing the storm waters to run off by surface drains into the sea after cleansing the streets. This good effect would in large measure be lost by leading the surface water in all cases directly into the sewers.

The estimate for this work is 12,777*l.*, including the cost of the private drains to the houses.

Comparing the system here proposed with that advocated by Messrs. "Hammond and Walsh," and approved of by the House of Assembly some years ago, its superiority in point of cheapness will be apparent. The estimate of those gentlemen for the sewerage of the Burnt District, comprising ten acres of land, was 4,700*l.*, exclusive of private drains, which under the same plan would cost about 1,500*l.* more.

The area of Bridgetown is about 400 acres, or 40 times that of the "Burnt District," so that the cost of the construction of sewers for the whole city under the plan recommended by those gentlemen would amount to 248,000*l.* sterling.

The same work can be executed much more efficiently for 12,779*l.* according to the plan proposed by me.

The advantages of the system of pipe sewers over the masonry sewers, are their greater cheapness and facility of construction and efficiency in working. In fact the sewerage of Bridgetown with large masonry sewers would be extremely costly, and when the sewers were built, from their unnecessarily large size and from the roughness of their interior surface impeding the flow of half liquid matter, they would be constantly liable to stoppages and obstruction, and it would be impossible to flush them without such a supply of water as could not be obtained in Bridgetown.

Again, from their enlarged dimensions, and the thickness of the top and bottom of the masonry sewers, there would be great loss of head,—a serious consideration where there is so small a difference of level as in Bridgetown.

Now all these objections are obviated by the pipe sewers. They are much less costly, and more easily built, and do not require the same amount of skilled labour in laying them as is requisite in the construction of the masonry sewers. From the perfect smoothness of their interior, their regularity of form, and the great accuracy of their joints, they present a minimum of resistance to any matter passing through them, while from their lesser size and the inferior thickness of the material of which they are composed, the greatest possible inclination of which the land admits is secured. Another great advantage in the pipe sewers is, that from their moderate size the water admitted into them for flushing instead of wasting its power by running over a large surface, is concentrated in a small space, and is thus enabled to exert all its hydraulic pressure in removing deposit.

Whilst on this subject I would observe, that the introduction of water into Bridgetown without sewers to carry off the waste water, will aggravate the evils at present existing for want of good sewerage. In fact sewerage is the complement to the water supplies, and it is only by their joint action that the benefit and advantages of each can be fully developed. Thus, without sewers there will be either a restriction on the full and legitimate use of the water, from the difficulty of getting rid of the waste water, or if the water is freely used there will be all the nuisances of flooded, damp premises, and foul, stagnant gutters. On the other hand, sewers without water are an impossibility; sewers

are the means only—the way of transport for refuse—it is water which is the moving power.

As regards the streets, I would advise that all defects should be repaired, and that proper gutters should be made, with the view of draining the surface and preventing the formation of those pools of dirty water so common at present in the streets in Bridgetown. There should be leading gutters, judiciously laid out with reference to their inclination and means of outlet into the sea, and with these the gutters of the side streets should be connected ; the whole forming a system which would speedily and effectually relieve the town of all rain or other water falling on its surface.

With respect to the houses certain regulations might be framed embracing the requirements for different classes.

The most important points would be with reference to the water supply, surface drainage, sewerage, facility of access below the ground-floor, to remove dirt, ventilation and admission of light, non-inflammability of materials ; provisions for all of which should be strictly enforced.

In the houses for the lower classes, not less than 1,200 cubic feet of space should be allowed to each individual, nor where two rows of houses are built in a yard should the passage be less than from fifteen to twenty feet. Where there is only a single row of houses twelve to fifteen feet should be the width of the passage, or between the houses and the boundary fence or wall.

The improvement of the Constitution River will form the subject of a separate report, and need not be referred to here.

In conclusion I would observe, that, great as are the evils arising from the imperfect state of the water supply, drainage, and sewerage, &c., in Bridgetown, there is reason to believe that their existence has been greatly connected with and dependent upon the want of exact knowledge on the part of those having influence and authority as to their real magnitude and as to the means of remedying them.

To the few who had given attention to the subject there appeared great obstacles to the execution of the works, either from physical causes or from the impossibility of raising the large amount of money supposed to be necessary for the undertaking.

Under these circumstances, with no local authority capable of correcting the erroneous impressions prevailing as to the possibility of applying to Bridgetown, at a cost not exceeding the means of the island, those extended schemes of sanitary improvement which have been realized in other countries, there were little to encourage activity in those efforts at amelioration which may now be reasonably looked for, when a clear and and connected view is attained both of the evils themselves and the necessary measures of relief.

I have, &c.

Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov. 14. (Signed) LEWIS N. SAMUEL.

Underground Sewers for the City of Bridgetown.

THIS work will be found absolutely indispensable when the town is supplied with water under the arrangements contemplated.

The system of sewerage I propose to adopt is that of pipes of earthen or stone ware. The superiority of this method over all others for the sewerage of towns of moderate extent is incontestable. It is the cheapest in construction, most efficient in action, and most easily maintained in working condition.

By reference to the plan you will observe that the city is divided into six sections, each drained by a distinct main pipe. One of these mains is sixteen inches, four are fifteen, and one twelve inches in diameter. The sewers for the side streets are nine inches and the house drains are from four to five and six inches in diameter. Each main sewer has a separate outlet, and delivers its contents into a small covered tank situated at a convenient distance to avoid nuisance.

The sewerage matter can be converted into manure for agricultural purposes or allowed to run into the sea.

In my estimate is included the cost of house drains, syphons, &c., for 1,800 houses, and also a drain for a watercloset to each of that number of houses.

Provision is made in the waterworks plan for flushing the sewers every day.

(Signed) LEWIS M. SAMUEL.

CHOLERA: its Nature and Mission, and the Facts it has elicited respecting the Condition and Character of the Labouring Population.

[Extracts from an Address read to the members of the Cliff District Agricultural Society at their First Anniversary Meeting, held at Haynesfield Estate by the Hon. G. E. Thomas, M.D., President of the Society.]

OUR meetings have been interrupted for some months in consequence of a visitation from Almighty God, well calculated to awaken the most serious reflections in all the inhabitants of this island.

I am of opinion, that in all its various migrations, cholera has never exercised a more general influence on any community, or manifested greater severity, than in its visitation to this country. I believe, although I state that belief simply on conjecture, and without sufficient data to confirm it, that, supposing the number of inhabitants of the island to have been 140,000 at the period of invasion, 135,000 have been affected more or less with some disturbance of the alimentary canal, that 50,000 of that number have had cholera in its developed form, and that of those so affected, 18,000 or 36 per cent. have perished, making a little more than one seventh of the whole population.

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From the experience which has been acquired, I think we are justified in arriving at the conclusion, that if those places where human beings congregate together were kept free from impurities which are incidental to human existence, and which defile the person, and contaminate the atmosphere which is respired; and that if the persons themselves abstained from those vices which pollute the soul, and enfeeble the body, as drunkenness and debauchery, then this mysterious disease would cease to afflict humanity.

* * * * * * *

Taking advantage, then, of this knowledge, it well becomes those who possess influence to turn their attention to a subject which naturally affects their own preservation from danger; for the fact is, that these evils, although originating in the abodes of vice and poverty, are not confined to those regions, but extend themselves to other places also, and entail calamities on the wealthier classes. The filthy and the infamous who give origin to contaminating impurities, and other social evils, may be, it is true, the first victims of their own filth and iniquity; but the better classes who stand by, and regard these things with apathy and indifference, are not exempt from their direful influence; they, too, share the common danger, and are subject to be invaded by the same desolating calamities. And, perhaps, this is so ordered to show us that a brotherly and neighbourly feeling should run through the whole of society, and be the connecting link of its various orders, so that neither rich nor poor should live to themselves, and be occupied only with their own things.

* * * * * * *

The opportunities which the prevalence of the epidemic has afforded of free admission into the dwellings of our labourers have shown us, that after a period of sixteen years, during which our peasantry have enjoyed the privileges and benefits of a free people, there have not been introduced among them, those social manners and habits, and those domestic proprieties which contribute to refine and elevate the human character, and which constitute the best enjoyments of civilized life. Indeed I am inclined to think that I am justified in saying that there is absolutely less of home feelings, and affections, and attachments, and less of domestic comfort, and even domestic cleanliness, than existed in the condition of slavery.

Some of the dwellings of our peasantry are positively wretched. Composed of fragile and decayed materials, they scarcely afford protection from the inclemency of the weather, while the interior is dirty and comfortless. Indeed, even among the better sort, among those who aspire to something superior to the old homely thatched habitation, there is not that neatness and cleanliness which used to exist. We observe the clean swept earthern floor replaced by a boarded one, begrimed with dirt; the place of the beautifully scoured crib occupied by a sofa, which, as it has no cover, and consequently cannot be washed, most unbecomingly represents its predecessor; and an air of general untidiness where simplicity and neatness once prevailed. Their dwellings, too, are much more crowded than they used to be. Not only do all the members of a family swarm and herd together, irrespective of sex, but any lodging-place that can be spared from the exigencies of the inmates is, I am led to understand, not unfrequently let out for hire as a night's lodging to any wayfaring person who may chance to require it. During the existence of the cholera scarcely was a blanket to be found to relieve the icy coldness of the body, while it was well known that their boxes were filled with articles of dress of a costly nature, to be exhibited on Sundays, or weddings, or other particular occasions. Scarcely indeed was a comfort of any kind to be found in their dwellings; and that this absence of all that contributes to the respectability and decency of a family, the absence of what may be called humanizing influences, was not owing to any want of means, was proved by the fact that considerable sums of money were known to be in the possession of the inmates of the houses exhibiting this dreary appearance; these sums having been

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hoarded by self-denial and privation for particular purposes, as funerals, purchase of land, &c. Their means are amply sufficient for all that is necessary for decent and comfortable existence, but they mismanage them. They deny themselves the commonest comforts of life to purchase articles which are perfectly useless to them, and only calculated to gratify a vitiated taste. Their wretched imitation of the habits of the wealthier classes is ridiculous in itself, and positively injurious to the healthy condition both of their minds and bodies. It may not be in our power to apply any direct remedy to the correction of this miserable and absurd taste, but we may discountenance it, and assail it when opportunity occurs, and thus in time induce their childish minds to abandon it; and if we would assist and encourage them in improving their dwellings, and attending more to domestic management, it may be the means of effecting a very salutary change in their habits and manners.

The next subject I shall allude to is one of a more serious nature. I fear that I cannot be contradicted in stating, that the habits of our peasantry are so exceedingly gross as to lead one to infer that they have all along connected the emancipation of their bodies from slavery with a discharge from the obligations of the laws of morality, and that they regard the chief enjoyments of the great boon of liberty as consisting in brutish lusts and degrading sensualities. I may be mistaken, but I believe that their exists among our people an absence of chastity, and that there prevails an extent of illicit commerce which would not be tolerated even in savage life; and I fear I must add, that it is not an uncommon thing for persons placed in offices of responsibility upon estates, whose position and influence should be exercised in checking such vices, and whose example should give a tone to the conduct of those over whom they are placed in authority, even for such persons to degrade themselves by forming, with their subordinates, the most unhallowed alliances. I can hardly imagine anything more detrimental to an estate than such practices. The white servant who is guilty of them, injures his employer, and mars his own happiness and prospects; the black superintendent who avails himself of his position to indulge his profligate propensities is the author of mischief which survives his rule and influence, and which outweighs his services, however valuable they may be esteemed. To connive at such practices on account of serviceable qualities is a suicidal act.

The march of cholera, and its penetrating search into recesses hidden from casual observation, have brought to light a picture both distressing and revolting. It has shown us that a stream of profligacy wider and deeper than was imagined, at least than I imagined, runs through our populous villages, and bears in its foul and muddy course elements destructive to the best interests of society. Young females as they grow up are brought under its deadly sway, and ere they submit to the formality of a marriage have several children, each one of whom owes its existence to a different source. Nor does even the solemnity of the marriage vow operate as a preventive to adultery. In short, libertinism prevails, and the consequence is that the illegitimacy of children exists to a most enormous extent, and is, in my opinion, a greater social evil than the orphanage which the pestilence has occasioned. The poor children whom the cholera has deprived of their parents will find sympathy in the heart of every benevolent individual; but who cares for the offspring of concubinage and prostitution far exceeding the orphans in number, who are deserted and repudiated by their parents, in consequence of the disgrace and trouble they occasion, and who are the pest and opprobium of society? The subject is most painfully distressing, and so revolting that decency is shocked at the bare allusion to it; nor should I feel that I was justified in submitting it to your notice, if I were not deeply impressed with the conviction that the very foundation of our society is jeopardized by it, and that unless we can fasten upon such practices the infamy they deserve, and discountenance them in every possible way, a very melancholy augury must attach to the future prospects of our country. I willingly leave this subject with the hope that it may attract the attention it merits, and that it may please God to assist us in wiping away so foul a blot from our land.

Another point deserving our consideration is the mode in which hired or "extra labour," as it is called, is procured. Practically, my acquaintance with that system is, I am happy to observe, only in a very limited degree, but I know enough of it to persuade me that it is one of a very pernicious tendency, and calculated in every respect to degrade and demoralize the labourer. The collectors of such labour are for the most part persons of unprincipled and abandoned habits. They go about stealthily from place to place to gather whom they can for their purpose. As their own profits depend upon the number they can collect, they are not very discriminating in their choice; consequently the very refuse of our population form an essential part of their gangs. To these are added the young people who are not attached to any estate. These are cajoled to join the vicious ranks by promises which stimulate the corrupt tastes and propensities of human nature. To the recruits so collected are but too commonly superadded the located labourers themselves, whose weak minds, unable to withstand the offer of higher wages than they get at home, made still more seducing by an allowance of rum, yield to the bribery, and lead them to desert their legitimate employers, and to use every species of art and deceit to escape detection. A vast deal of the bickering and heartburnings, and magisterial interference, and the miserable practice of applying double rent to defaulters, owe their origin to this unsatisfactory method of employing labourers. The system is thoroughly vicious in all its bearings; it countenances dishonesty; it rewards profligacy; it introduces habits of socialism between the sexes; it discourages the rising generation from settling themselves

soberly, virtuously, and contentedly upon the estates on which they have been born and reared; it fosters vagrancy; it is a premium on desertion; and it induces young people who are just growing up to over exert themselves, and to injure their health by undertaking tasks for which their strength is unequal. The only cases of cachexy which I have seen of late years have been among those young people who are in the habit of gaining their living in job or steam gangs. The subject is, in my opinion, so detrimental to the growth of morality, and so hurtful to the general wellbeing of estates, that, notwithstanding the facilities which it affords of obtaining labour on particular occasions, yet it demands consideration with a view to its being put upon a different footing. I am aware that I am condemning a system respecting which the agricultural mind may be a little sensitive, but I am sure you will all allow that any practice which is maintained at a sacrifice of moral principle should be discountenanced, however convenient its continuance may be. These evils, calculated in a high degree to undermine the fabric of our society, and to damage our best interests, have been brought so prominently forward by the late afflicting calamity, that I cannot but think, though with humility I express the thought, that it may have been one design of its mission to show us the danger of the ground on which we are standing, and to lead us to take a safer position. If this be the case, we must take heed how we despise such a warning; we must take care not to be indifferent to the chastisement, lest a worse thing come upon us.

I do think that if these evils I have mentioned be of the magnitude and importance which I conceive to be attached to them, it becomes us, as a body of planters, to use our influence and exertions to contend against them. It is true that they may be too gigantic for us to overcome; they may be too inveterate for us to eradicate them; it may cost us much thought and much effort, and our attempts may be attended with much disappointment after all: but still it would be better to attempt something than to sit down with folded hands and connive at crimes and practices which cannot fail to degrade our population, and which are calculated to bring down upon our land God's curse, in the shape of unfruitful seasons, and blights, and pestilential diseases.

Unhappily for us, and for our people, one effect of the emancipation from slavery was the destruction of the patriarchal sentiment, the alienation of minds whose common interest should bind them close together. Now to make any reform we may contemplate successful, it will be necessary to restore this feeling; we must endeavour on our parts to gain the confidence of our people by showing them that the tie which should bind us together is not simply an affair of labour and wages, which is to terminate as soon as those matters are satisfactorily settled. Let us show them that we regard them with other feelings than those which spring from the value of their agricultural services; that we are willing to interest ourselves and to assist them in those things which concern their moral improvement and their temporal welfare. Let us encourage them to look upon us in the light of protectors and advisers, and not with shyness and suspicion.

A great amount of good may also be effected by a cordial combination between those who have the charge of estates and the ministers of religion. These two parties may well work together for so excellent a purpose: the ministerial, by diffusing throughout our society the precepts of the Gospel and the blessings of Christianity; the agricultural, by strengthening the hands of the pastors, by assisting them in their surveillance, supporting them in their rebukes and reproofs, and aiding the ecclesiastical discipline which their office enables them to exercise, in rejecting the vicious and obdurate, and giving every encouragement to the moral and virtuous, irrespective of physical power and usefulness. Rely upon it, that the subject is of sufficient importance to arouse us from languor and indifference. Our own interests, independently of other considerations, exhort us to use every exertion for the removal of those degrading vices, which infest the character of our dependents, and render them objects of disgust. Remember that our prosperity and our domestic comfort are placed in their hands, and that our safety from pestilential diseases may, for ought we know, depend upon their habits.

Nor is it altogether a hopeless task. We see the negro demoralized and crippled in mind by the injury which slavery has inflicted on his mental constitution; but what we see is not his natural character. All travellers who have seen him in his natural state declare, and our own experience must confirm the statement, that he is not incapable of being propitiated by the gentle and affectionate feelings of the heart, and that he is not insensible to kindness and generosity. At any rate there is no alternative before us. We must endure the consequences of the present disgusting and vicious propensities of our peasantry if we cannot reform or improve them; and the consequences are of a serious nature, for they involve the demoralization of the rising generation. The bad example and the inveterate habits of the parents neutralize the little and imperfect education which the children receive, who, as they grow up, will necessarily indulge in all kinds of vicious propensities, unless there be some counteracting principle, some controlling discipline, to restrain them. Nor is it because we live in a West India colony, and have such a population as ours to deal with, that the consideration of the question is beset with difficulty. Even in England the management of the labouring classes is found to be a social problem very difficult to work out, and a fit subject for the employment of the talents of the greatest statesmen and philanthropists.

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I fear I have trespassed on your time, and taken an undue liberty with you in intruding on your notice my own opinions and feelings on a subject of considerable delicacy. It is, nevertheless, in my estimation, a matter of great importance, and should not be lightly disposed of. If the existence of the late epidemic among us has brought to light a large amount of destitution and depravity, it has also discovered a large amount of generosity and benevolence, and ability for good and useful purposes. While the pestilence raged and dangers thickened, every man, from the highest to the lowest, seemed to lay aside all narrow and selfish suggestions, and to be animated alone by the disinterested feelings of duty. No one can calculate the extent of good which was effected by the extraordinary exertions which were thus brought to bear on the wants of poverty and the ravages of disease. In the same way no one can predict the amount of benefit which may be wrought upon the ignorance and depravity of our peasantry if the same spirit and the same exertions be directed towards their improvement. Every man of any mind possesses a secret influence over his dependents, and is able, by the tone of his conversation and the still more powerful eloquence of his example, to develope and call forth latent emotions which may lead to good or evil. Let us exercise this moral influence for good, and if, with God's blessing, we can use it successfully, we shall never have occasion to regret the trial ; and even should the flood of iniquity be so powerful as to overwhelm the attempt, and to prevail in spite of our exertions, then we shall have at least the satisfaction to know that we have done our part.

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No. 13.

No. 13.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 40.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, June 18, 1855.

My Lord, (Received, July 23, 1855.)

No. 61, 22d May 1855. No. 320, 18th June 1855.

I have the honour to forward a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of Grenada, with the "Blue Book" for 1854, together with a copy of my answer to the Lieut.-Governor.

I have, &c,

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1. in No. 13.

Enclosure 1, in No. 13.

Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-Governor Keate to Governor-General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke.

(No. 61.)

Government House, Grenada, May 22, 1855.

Sir, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the "Blue Book" for Grenada for 1854, together with the returns of the stipendiary magistrates for the same period, the substance of which is incorporated in it. I also enclose an abstract of all the returns of which it is composed, and a report upon the present condition of the Government House, in obedience to the instructions of the Secretary of State as conveyed to me in your Excellency's Circular Despatch of the 6th September last, which with a plan of the building has been prepared for me by the surveyor of roads, public works, and buildings.

2. Sir George Grey having, when acknowledging the receipt of the "Blue Book" for 1853, signified his wish that I should avail myself of all proper means of acting in accordance with the views I advocated in my report which accompanied it, I shall endeavour on the present occasion to show what progress has already been made in that direction.

3. The Supply Act for the year 1854, the usual annual exponent of the financial arrangements of the colony, had passed the Council and Assembly in the early part of the month of November 1853, a few days before I assumed the administration of the Government, and was therefore framed without any

reference to such views. It was characterized by the same absence of accurate balancing of ways and means with probable outlay, which, when reviewing the transactions of 1853, I pointed out as arising among other causes from the experienced facility of drawing, in emergencies, upon the so-called Immigration Fund. It is true that with the general intention of meeting deficiencies already existing or evidently impending, some additional taxation was imposed by the Act, but these do not appear to have been correctly ascertained or estimated, nor was any further relief proposed to be afforded by casting a portion of the expenditure upon special local sources.

4. The additional taxation consisted chiefly in an increase of the rates of previous assessments, the only new fiscal principle introduced being that of subjecting boats and canoes to a licence fee. An important innovation, however, was made in the formal application to the ordinary exigencies of the colony of that which had hitherto been reserved, in theory at least, for recruiting the labour market, namely, a tax upon the consumption of rum.

5. The first quarter of 1854 had not elapsed before it became evident that the causes which had led to the unfavourable disparity between the revenue and expenditure, which had resulted at the close of 1853, were still operating; that no efficient means had yet been devised for counteracting them, and that the arrangements made, such as they were, had not yet had the effect of bringing the receipts of the treasury to keep pace with its disbursements, whatever they might be expected to do before the year was out. To remedy this state of things the treasury was at once replenished by pouring into it a sum of 3,000*l.*, taken from the accumulations of the immigration fund; but the recurrence to this expedient, and to such an extent, so soon after the passing of the Supply Act, awakened the Legislature to the necessity of placing its finances on a less precarious footing; and the more so, as it was plain this resource could not be much longer relied on if future demands upon it were to continue, like the present one, to be in their amount nearly double the annual additions made to it. I took advantage of this emergency to urge upon the attention of the Assembly two of the measures advocated in my last "Blue Book Report," by the first of which I proposed, while preserving to their legitimate use the future proceeds of the immigration tax, to increase permanently the general revenue, and by the second to relieve it permanently of a heavy item of expenditure.

6. Resolutions were passed adopting the principle of these measures, and I was in hopes that Acts based upon them might have been matured at once, and have come simultaneously into operation, so as to have an immediate effect upon the financial condition of the colony; but so much care and consideration were requisite in framing them that such rapid legislation was found to be impossible.

7. The mode in which the revenue was to be increased by the first Act was by substituting for the two rates of duties imposed upon the consumption of rum under the annually renewed Acts for raising funds for immigration and the Supply Act, one uniform and permanent rate, about one third higher in amount than the two combined, two thirds of which were to be applied to general, and one third to immigration purposes. But an improvement in the mode of collecting the tax was as much needed as an augmentation of the rate at which it was fixed, or a redistribution of its proceeds. The old Acts had been found to be essentially faulty in this particular, and much of the progressive decrease in the annual receipts from this source was attributable to the facility with which frauds on the revenue could be perpetrated under them. Some time elapsed, therefore, before a well digested measure, providing for both these objects could be prepared and passed. Two more quarters of the year had gone by before it came into force, and the receipts of the Treasury had, consequently, hardly begun to be influenced by it when the year reached its termination.

8. The object of the other measure resolved upon was to take out of the general schedule of expenditure in which they had hitherto figured annually for a large sum, the making and repair of the public highways, and to provide for them by an organized system of statute labour, commutable by a money payment. Still more time was occupied in framing and discussing the bill for effecting this than in the former case. Its principle, indeed, was not quite a new one to the colony, for the public byeways were supposed to be maintained by something like compulsory labour, but no machinery existed for its effectual application. It was in devising such that difficulty was experienced and delay occasioned in preparing the measure to be introduced. Eventually it was framed

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and brought in very much on the model of the Ceylon Road Ordinance, but at the close of the year it had only passed one branch of the Legislature. Since the commencement of the present year it has become law, and is at this moment being put into execution.

9. It was the more important that steps should be taken for thus developing the resources of the country, as while, on the one hand, the means relied on for meeting its requirements were being proved inadequate, increased expenditure under one or two heads was evidently impending on the other. The contemplated withdrawal of the garrison had shown the necessity of an augmentation of the police force and the enrolment of a militia. The salary of a surveyor of roads, public works, and buildings was to be provided in connexion with the new Road Act, and various measures of improvement in the judicial and civil establishments were under consideration, which could not be carried out without some additional outlay. Fortunately it was found possible, in the sequel, to postpone the greater part of these new items of expenditure to the present year, for not only had circumstances, as I have related, prevented the immediate adoption of the financial changes proposed, and thrown the colony back again on the arrangements of the Supply Act, but an event occurred which, among other disastrous consequences, enhanced the operation of the causes which were already affecting injuriously the existing sources of the revenue, and cast upon them at the same time a variety of fresh charges, totally unexpected and unprovided for; I mean the outbreak of Asiatic cholera.

10. Exclusive of these extraordinary charges, which, though liquidated, with few exceptions, before the year was out, were in the end separately met by a further appropriation from the immigration fund under the provisions of the Supply Act for 1855, operating to this extent retrospectively, the total expenditure of the year exceeded its general revenue by 2,529*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, thus corroborating the impression produced in the early part of the year that the arrangements made at the close of 1853 were insufficient. The deficiency intended to be made good by them had arisen principally from a large diminution in the receipts from customs, tonnage, and water dues on shipping; but it seems to have been taken for granted that this falling off had reached its limits. So far was this from being the case, that the additional taxation then imposed did little more than fill up the fresh vacuum created under these heads within the year itself, exhibiting, as they did, a further fall to the extent of 1,767*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, while the other sources of revenue, including the additions made to them, produced only 1,983*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* beyond what they had yielded in the previous year.

11. But though the time has not yet arrived for estimating fully the financial effects of the two new measures resorted to, they have produced, in other points of view, results which are already appreciable. So long as the Acts for raising funds for immigration required annual renewal, their proceeds might indeed have been applied in a direct manner to furthering the object proposed, but they could not be relied on, as it was intended they should be, as a basis on which to obtain money for the purpose by way of loan. The new Act having, however, been passed in a permanent shape, this difficulty has now been removed, and advantage has already been taken of the circumstance to set aside by positive enactment that portion of the funds to accrue under it which is applicable to immigration, as a provision for the interest and sinking fund of the loan of 7,000*l.* authorized to be raised by this colony under the guarantee of Great Britain, and thus to obviate all danger of future diversions of it to other objects. This is a great point gained, and I hope in a short time to be able to announce that the remaining step has also been taken by the passing of the bill, which has been for some time before the Legislature, for regulating the mode in which immigrants are to be procured and employed.

12. In consequence of the advanced stage which the new Road Bill had reached previously to the close of the year, the Assembly was led to omit all mention of the repairs of the roads in the Supply Act for 1855. Though, therefore, it was at that time still uncertain whether the particular mode in which it was proposed to meet this important item of expense would ultimately be adopted, the principle was at all events effectually recognized of relieving the general revenue of it, and casting it upon special sources. The extension to other matters of the system of taxation thus introduced will no doubt be facilitated or retarded, as the case may be, by the amount of success which may attend this experiment. The machinery by which it is to be carried out is of

a kind to be turned at once to any purpose for which the acquiring of detailed information on the one hand and the collection or distribution of small sums on the other are required, and I have urged its application to the establishment of a tariff of compulsory educational fees, and of a system of parochial rating for the relief of the poor, and for medical attendance upon them.

13. But my views have been advanced by the passing of this Act in another particular also, on which I spoke strongly in my last report. I adverted therein to the wasteful and unprofitable expenditure of public money not only on the repairs of the roads but in the execution of all kinds of public works, owing to the absence of anything like scientific knowledge among those who had the management of the funds granted for these purposes. A properly qualified surveyor of roads, public works, and buildings has now been appointed under the Act, who is charged with the superintendence of all such matters, and without whose certificate as to the due performance of all contracts relating to them no payments will hereafter be made so long as the Act is in force. I believe that whatever outlay may be necessary in the first instance to retrieve the errors which have been committed, and to prevent further dilapidations of public property, great and permanent saving to the colony will be the ultimate result of the policy which has been thus adopted.

14. The progressive decrease in the customs receipts which gave the impetus to this incipient change in the financial system of the colony was no doubt occasioned in great measure by circumstances unconnected with the locality, and was largely enhanced in the year under review by the cessation of all commercial undertakings during the prevalence of the cholera. Causes, however, which appear at first to be temporary in their nature are apt to become permanent by the force of their own operation. An accidental stoppage in the supply of accustomed articles of consumption occurring among persons who are already looking about them for the means of curtailing their personal expenses is not unlikely to produce a habit of dispensing altogether, where possible, with such articles, or at all events considerably to reduce the ordinary demand for them. The aim of legislation on this class of subjects under such circumstances should therefore be to endeavour to check this tendency, and to provide, so far as it is within its province and power to do so, that when the supply reassumes its wonted regularity, the demand shall not have fallen short in its turn. This can only be done by using the opportunity to lower import duties, and to remove or relax impediments in the way of trade. It is, moreover, not only just but positively necessary that, as direct taxation increases indirect pressure should diminish, otherwise that which was intended to be a substitution becomes an additional burden, and the objects aimed at fail consequently of their accomplishment. With this view I have strongly recommended a revision of the import tariff, and a reduction of the rates of duties, especially upon articles of food, and though no such step has yet been taken there appears to be a growing feeling in favour of it. In the meantime alterations of an important kind tending to the same end have been made in the mode of levying tonnage dues, which are already beginning to have the effect of attracting to the ports of Grenada more of that casual, and, if I may so call it, retail species of commerce which best suits the present circumstances of the community. Payment is now made in proportion to the value of the quantity of goods discharged, and not, as was previously the case, upon the whole tonnage of the vessel discharging.

The full effects of this arrangement upon the trade of the place will, however, only be ascertained when a sufficient time has elapsed for the change in the law to become more widely known.

15 But whatever exertions may be made and with whatever degree of success gradually to introduce a more reliable system of raising the requisite supplies, I am convinced that a fair yearly balancing of revenue and expenditure, and a really healthy condition of the public treasury, will never be obtained so long as the executive government is in nowise responsible for the preparation of the annual estimates of ways and means and expenditure, and has no constitutional control over or recognized right to manage the finances of the colony. Not only are they at present subject to no regulated control, consistent with the theoretic distinctions between executive and legislative functions, but they are not even practically under such management as it might be supposed would naturally grow out of the exigencies of the case. They

are, in fact, in a complete state of anarchy. The simple process by which all the real difficulties in the preparation of a financial statement are now met is by lumping together under the head of extraordinaries all contingent expenditure except such as is of so customary and unfluctuating a nature as scarcely to come within that category, and the sum set apart for these is fixed not upon any carefully considered estimates of the requirements of the different branches of the public service, but apparently by the extent of the margin left after providing for the settled and more easily ascertainable items out of an amount arbitrarily set down beforehand as the total outlay to be incurred during the year. The probable proceeds of the various sources of revenue being calculated in a manner equally arbitrary, and set down at a figure equally the result of guesswork, the apparent squaring of accounts thus made is obviously a mere delusion. Upon this vote for extraordinaries are heaped one after another all charges which are not otherwise specially provided for, very little, if any, inquiry being ever made as to its capacity to bear them, for it is no one's business or interest to do so. As under such a system, if it may be called one, the grant is pretty sure to be exhausted at an early period of the year, and great practical inconvenience to be thereby entailed, comparative profusion at one time is generally followed by an undue withholding of means at another, and not only therefore is it a matter of mere chance whether the proportion of public money set apart for contingencies is spent upon objects of immediate or of secondary importance, but additional expense is in the end thrown upon the colony by the former, however pressing they may be, being in too many instances unavoidably postponed to the latter.

16. There exists, however, I regret to perceive, a very strong indisposition on the part of the House of Assembly to remedy this acknowledged evil, arising, I am fully convinced, out of an erroneous impression as to the purport of the proposals which have been submitted to it on the subject. The obstacle to reform in this, as in many other matters, is the prevalence of a most unfounded idea, that the privileges of the Assembly are continually exciting the jealousy of the Executive, and that in this particular instance some covert onset is being made on its right to raise and appropriate the public revenue. The distinction between the legislative act of raising and appropriating the revenue, and the administrative one of controlling and managing the finances, is so very obvious that such a misconception could scarcely arise if the question were really considered on its merits. I need hardly say that the object in view is not to curtail in the slightest degree or to interfere with the former, but simply to call out of abeyance the power of performing the latter. If the legislative privilege possessed and exercised by the Assembly in this respect includes, as I conceive it does, a right to take a part in the administrative business connected with it, it is at all events one which at present it does not and cannot exercise, because no contrivance exists by which the joint action absolutely requisite for administrative purposes can be given to bodies which in their legislative capacities act separately.

17. An endeavour was made on the occasion of framing the bill lately passed for remodelling the office of Public Treasurer to call into life this dormant principle of joint administrative action in a very simple manner by converting the present Committee of Public Accounts, which consists of members of both branches of the Legislature, and is now merely a board for auditing accounts of monies already expended, into a finance committee, and investing it among other things with the duty of preparing, with the assistance of the Executive, the yearly estimates. These it was proposed should be brought forward by the members of the committee having seats in the Assembly, who were either to initiate all money votes or to sanction by their previous approval those mooted by individual members. But in order to put this committee into communication with the Executive, for otherwise the most purely administrative element of the three which were to be combined would be totally excluded, it was necessary so far to change its constitution as to arrange that in future its members should be appointed by the Governor instead of being chosen as at present by the Council and Assembly respectively. The defect in this proposal, which not unnaturally, as I think, indisposed the Assembly to its adoption, was, that it withdrew from it the power of nominating its own members to a board which after all was to bear no other character than that of a joint committee of the two Houses of the Legislature, with appointments to which the Executive

has of course nothing to do. Rather than accept the benefit of an alliance with the Executive on such terms, the Assembly preferred the prolongation of the existing anarchy in financial matters.

18. But it has always struck me that much of this suspiciousness as to the designs of the Executive is attributable to the total estrangement from its councils to which the elected branch of the Legislature is subjected by the constitution of the colony. I alluded fully to this circumstance in my last Report, and suggested a method of remedying it by changing the composition of the Executive Council. The proposal above alluded to was in fact nothing more than a modification, by leaving out its most important feature, of this suggestion, which was to reconstruct the Executive Council in such a manner as to admit into it members of the lower as well as of the upper House. Out of such Council, appointed of course by the Crown, I further proposed to form an administrative committee, which in that case would be no longer a joint committee of the two Houses, but a Committee of Council, and as such necessarily appointed by the Governor. Though the Assembly some time ago assented by resolution to the former part of this proposition, and a bill has recently been introduced for giving it as well as the latter part practical effect, I much fear that the failure of the attempt to carry out its principle in a modified form, trenching, as it certainly did, however unintentionally, on the privileges of the Assembly, will delay, if it does not ultimately defeat, the success of the measure. If the Executive had had any sort of organ of communication with the Assembly, to supply which was one of the objects of the projected change, such an inadvertency could hardly have occurred.

19. If but little has yet been done in regard to other matters adverted to in my Report, what has been effected has at all events cleared the way for further progress. More no doubt would have been achieved but for the total cessation of all legislative proceedings during the prevalence of the cholera. As it was, no less than eighteen Acts, a number far exceeding the usual average, were carried in the course of the year, and several measures since matured, or which are still under discussion, went through their earlier stages before its close.

20. Among the latter is a bill to improve the educational institutions of the country, a subject which causes me much anxiety. This bill has passed the Assembly, and is now before the Council, but it is with few alterations the counterpart of one which had reached that stage a short time before and been rejected. Considerable amendments will, therefore, have to be made in it before it will assume such a shape as to be really conducive to the end in view. Grants for educational purposes have hitherto been made absolutely to the rectors of the several parishes and other ministers of religion in their different localities on no very fixed or intelligible principle of proportion, except perhaps so far as the Church of England is concerned; and this rather in respect to the extent of the parishes than to the number of their inhabitants attached to its tenets. The custom of giving assistance to other communities is of comparatively recent growth, and was brought about not in consequence of the adoption of any general change of system or policy, but by a gradual accumulation of exceptional instances. It has been proposed to obviate what appears to be an unfairness of distribution on the one hand, and to create local interest in the matter on the other, by making the grants conditional on a certain amount of private subscriptions being contributed. In the present circumstances of the colony, and in the present state of the educational question in it, I fear the introduction of such a proviso would produce one only advantage, that of saving the public money, not however by substituting voluntary subscriptions, but by reducing the number of grants. Even if the benefits of education were in general sufficiently appreciated, which they certainly are not, to enable those who take an interest in the matter to get together at the outset, by their personal influence and exertions, such sums as would entitle them to grants, they would be sure to meet with the result which always attends in this colony schemes based in any degree upon voluntary assistance. The demand for a repetition of the subscriptions from year to year or at stated periods would speedily become irksome; contributions would drop off one after another and eventually cease altogether, and to the difficulties already to be contended with would be added the perpetual uncertainty of being able to maintain in future years what with so much pains had been established. Petitions to the Legislature for grants irrespectively of such conditions would speedily ensue, and be

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acceded to in consideration of the difficulties of complying with them, and as saving trouble and annoyance; and the principle of localizing educational efforts, so far from being advanced, would be looked upon as having been tried and found wanting. To obtain this end, the contributions instead of being voluntary, must be made obligatory, and this may be done either by an educational rate to fall on all householders, or by the establishment of a general tariff of school fees to be payable compulsorily by all parents and guardians of children within specified ages. Unless one or other of these plans be engrafted upon the provisions of the bill which is under discussion, I shall feel but little confidence in its machinery of boards and inspectors, for however valuable these may be for administering the funds provided and for improving the organisation of schools and the quality of the instruction given in them, they will not of themselves have any material influence in recruiting the number of scholars, or in overcoming that wide-spread indifference to the advantages of education which is the chief obstacle to improvement.

21. So soon as this subject and that of immigration, which is in about the same state of forwardness, are disposed of, there are none to which the attention of the Legislature should be turned with such earnestness as those which have reference to the sanitary condition of the island and its inhabitants. I have recommended as a necessary preliminary to all improvement in this respect that the local boards of health should be entirely remodelled and put upon a better footing. Their present constitution is cumbrous and unwieldy in the extreme, and such as they are they are practically non-existent except when the dangers to be guarded against are so closely impending that preventive measures become almost impossible. A recollection of the comparatively unprepared state in which the outbreak of cholera found the island ought to have impressed on all thinking minds in it the necessity of giving a more permanent character to the working of the boards and through them to the enforcement of those precautionary regulations which are now only acted upon in moments of panic. Much of that predisposition to diseases liable from time to time to become epidemic which is observable in the population of Grenada is to be attributed to causes requiring for their removal the influence and extension of education and enlightenment rather than of sanitary arrangements, but a more continuous observance of the latter, however secondary in their effects, is not the less important. Much zeal and energy were displayed on all sides immediately before and during the prevalence of the late epidemic, and no doubt would be again in a like emergency, but such voluntary efforts cease with the occasions which call them forth, and produce no abiding results. The law as it now stands operates only to give some sort of temporary consistency to convulsive action of this nature, and by so doing to check rather than encourage perseverance and foresight. So far as my observation goes, the colony is at this moment in precisely the same condition in a sanitary point of view as it was previously to the late outbreak, and as little prepared for a fresh one, and so it will remain until a totally different principle is introduced into the constitution of its boards of health, and they are made the guardians of the health of the community under ordinary as well as under exceptional circumstances, and are armed with the requisite powers of insuring it so far as human means can go, instead of being as at present little more than consultative bodies, never called into play but on occasions when the time for deliberation has well nigh passed away.

22. Sanitary precautions being of course of greater consequence in towns than in country districts, it is fortunate in the absence of such, that the situation of St. George's, the principal town of Grenada, is naturally salubrious. It was, moreover, one of the first in the West Indies to furnish itself with a regular and constant supply of water. The waterworks as they now exist were commenced in 1835, and finished, so far as the town itself is concerned, in 1837; but additions were made to them in 1841 for the better accommodation of the shipping in the harbour. The pipes laid down were guaranteed to last a certain number of years, which has been long exceeded without their having been replaced, and though petty repairs have been continually going on, they are now so completely worn out as to demand entire renewal. The spring from which the water is derived is not on a sufficiently high level to admit of its being carried into the upper parts of the town without some kind of forcing apparatus being employed, and considerations of expense prevented this part of

the original plan being adopted. It is obviously very desirable both for health and convenience sake that in undertaking the restoration of the old works the opportunity should not be lost of extending their usefulness so as to embrace the whole of the town, and for this purpose endeavours have been made to discover other sources of supply in more elevated localities. The distance, however, from town of such as have been hit upon is so great that, independently of other objections, they could not be rendered available except at a cost far beyond what would be incurred by having recourse to forcing power; and it is to this point, therefore, that I shall direct the attention of the Surveyor of Public Works, having had the benefit of a conversation on the subject with the projector and constructor of the original works, who was on a visit to the island a short time ago. The subjoined account of the receipts and expenditure, which, with the addition of the two years that have elapsed since that time, is a transcript of one forwarded to your Excellency by the President then administering the Government in his Despatch of the 24th September 1853, No. 66, will show in what manner the establishment has been maintained. It appears that though by the preamble of the Act under which the supply of water was introduced into the town, it was provided that the expenses should be defrayed by a loan advanced from the Public Treasury, to be repaid with interest by the appropriation of the yearly revenue of the canal duties, and by an assessment on houses, yet the funds were never kept separate from the general revenue of the colony, nor was the interest regularly charged. Probably it was found in practice more convenient to apply at once the surplus revenue of each year, as it accrued, to aid in meeting the ordinary expenditure, than to shift it backwards and forwards from one account to another previously to doing so. As, however, the Public Treasury is not now in a position to advance the necessary funds for the repairs and extension required and projected, I am of opinion that the interest and sinking fund of a loan, to be obtained for the purpose in other quarters, might be provided for in the same manner as was intended to be done by the Act alluded to. The matter is at present entirely in embryo, but it is not impossible that it may receive an impetus in the course of the year by the establishment of a municipal corporation in St. George's, which would naturally be interested in forwarding any scheme having for its object the improvement and welfare of the town and its inhabitants.

23. But there is another work absolutely necessary to be undertaken if positive obstructions to the healthy condition of the town are to be removed, namely, the filling in or otherwise doing away with two small morasses in its immediate vicinity, one at the head of the harbour and the other of an adjoining inlet called the Lagoon. I adverted in my last Report to the circumstances which had prevented the Harbour Commissioners from taking any steps for several years past to clear away the accumulations of drift which are gradually choking up and contracting the circumference of the harbour. They are hardly yet in funds to enable them to purchase the machinery required for doing so; but every year adds, though slowly, to their resources, and I am looking forward to the time when two works of almost equal importance may be going on simultaneously and with mutual assistance the one to the other, that is to say, the deepening of the water in the harbour and the filling in with the deposits extracted from it of that one at least of the two morasses I have mentioned which, as being at its head, and the nearest consequently to the town, is the most prejudicial to the public health.

24. One result of the cholera, I regret to say, has been materially to add to the average number of inmates of the St. George's Gaol. Some portion of this increase must no doubt be attributed to the extended jurisdiction given by recent legislation to the local magistrates, as well as to the improvement and augmentation of the police, by which the apprehension and conviction of offenders has been much facilitated. But the bands which hold society together must always be relaxed more or less by such visitations, and according to the character, disposition, and circumstances of the communities affected, the disorganization which ensues takes the form of popular outbreaks or of isolated offences against persons and property. The peasantry of Grenada have no talent for insurrections, but their impulses lead them frequently to commit grave assaults upon each other, and they are particularly adroit in every sly and cunning trick by which they may appropriate to themselves what does not

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belong to them. Though submissive enough to the outward forms of the churches and religious societies to which they belong, they do not appear to be under any very efficient moral control. During the cholera panic they clung more closely than ever to the former, and the result has not been in every point of view a happy one. By way of compounding for the sin of living in concubinage, which is habitual with so many of them, a number of hasty and improvident marriages were celebrated, in most cases illegally, which being afterwards looked upon, when the momentary fear of consequences had passed away, as mere matters of form, gone through for a specific object under the pressure of circumstances, have been followed in too many instances by ill-treatment, desertion, and of course renewed concubinage. Nor does it appear to have been thought incompatible with such outward observances to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the desolation of so many households to ransack their hidden treasures. The miserly propensity for hoarding, burying, or otherwise concealing their earnings, at the expense of their own comfort and that of their families, which is characteristic of Grenada negroes, and I believe of the race in general, is well known and calculated upon among themselves, and if a blind fear of contagion kept away neighbourly attentions from the bedsides of the dying, it was not strong enough to overcome the cupidity which attracted them to the temporarily deserted dwellings where death had been. Detection and punishment have followed in but few cases on these delinquencies, but a general increase of indictable offences has naturally resulted from such a state of demoralization. Evidences are not wanting of a gradual return to more orderly habits, but in the meantime a positive inconvenience has been created by the overcrowding of the St. George's gaol, which had already begun to be looked upon as too small for the requirements of the colony.

25. I anticipated the possibility of appropriating one of the military buildings, lately become the property of the colony, to the formation of a more commodious prison, in which a proper classification of inmates, and some approach to a reformatory discipline, might have been effected, and I had fixed upon the citadel in Fort George as the spot best adapted to the purpose; but upon a thorough inspection and survey of the edifice, it has been pronounced to be in such a state of dilapidation, and to be moreover so inadequate in size, unless very extensive additions were made to it, that I have been obliged to give up the idea; I do so, however, with the less reluctance, because among the different parcels of land transferred to the local authorities is one small lot occupied only by some stables, which immediately adjoins the present gaol. All difficulties in respect to space, which have hitherto stood in the way of the enlargement of the present premises, are therefore removed. The site itself is in no way objectionable, but, on the contrary, is both convenient and healthy. There is naturally at this moment great indisposition to incur any additional outlay, even for so pressing an object, until the finances of the island are in a more flourishing condition; but the urgency of the case must necessarily ere long swallow up all other considerations. I subjoin a copy of a report made to me on this subject by the inspector of prisons.

26. I am unwilling to close this report without making some remarks on the agricultural prospects of the island, especially as regards its staple produce; but the colony appears to me to be in so transitional and exceptional a state in this respect that it would be premature to attempt to draw any conclusions concerning them. Putting out of view all those extraneous circumstances which affect the sugar-growing interest in general, and which the Grenada planter must struggle against but cannot obviate by any exertions of his own, and considering only the immediate local cause which hampers all his efforts, namely, the paucity of available labour, it is evident that the sudden and unexpected diminution of the population by no less than 3,788 souls, at a time when immigration was being ardently looked to to supply the already existing deficiency, must have placed him in a condition of peculiar difficulty.

27. The total cessation of all labour which prevailed during the epidemic was followed by a very gradual and uncertain resumption of it, and this character of uncertainty is still maintained, and is the most discouraging feature of the results of the visitation, so far as they are yet appreciable. The hiatus created has no doubt been filled up to some extent by the return to plantation labour of many persons who, from having neglected during the panic the cultivation of their own small settlements, were unable for

a time to depend upon them for their livelihood, and the abandonment during the year of several smaller plantations, hastened possibly, but not caused by the ravages of the cholera, has assisted the remaining estates by releasing, to their benefit, the remnant of the labour previously employed upon them. But there is no element of certainty or permanency in either of these accidental reinforcements: in the former instance unwilling workmen have been obtained anxious to return to their former mode of life on the first opportunity, and to resume their independence; and in the latter it is hardly likely that families scattered by the breaking-up of estates will fix themselves in any numbers as located labourers on other estates, when every such abandonment offers further facilities for their becoming independent settlers in their turn. These temporary supplies, however, have been very convenient and acceptable, as serving to occupy a space which it was feared would have remained empty, and to raise a hope that the exertions of the planters may, after all, not become entirely paralyzed, as at one time seemed likely, before immigration can step in to their rescue.

28. If, under these circumstances, the cost of producing sugar is in this island necessarily so large as to leave, when the commercial expenses connected with it are taken into the account, scarcely any margin for profits, a kind of compensation is not wanting. It will be observed, on referring to the returns of exports, that rum to the value of no less than 29,637*l.* was exported during the year under review, to which should be added the price of the 50,000 gallons sold and consumed within the colony. By far the greater part of this is sheer gain to the producers. So long as this article bears a fair price, and any sort of hope continues to be entertained of a possible future improvement in that of sugar, those estates the proprietors of which are in a position to incur the heavy outlay incidental to their cultivation, and which are in themselves favourably circumstanced as regards soil and situation, will, I have little doubt, if labour is procurable, be maintained in operation, but numbers I fear must be abandoned which do not share in any of these advantages. If the fancied possibility of a return to the principle of differential duties were still the sole ground of the planters' hopes, I should look upon them as purely delusive, but I am glad to observe that attention is beginning to be turned to the opening of new markets rather than to the artificial improvement of old ones. The proposition of the Canadian Legislature to establish a free interchange of the productions of all the British colonies in America, though it has not yet been responded to by the Legislature of Grenada, has served at all events to give a wider range to thought and opinion upon this subject. Indications are not wanting of such a gradual change being going on in the policy of foreign nations as may lead eventually to the emancipation of these colonies from their dependence upon the comparatively restricted markets to which they have at present access, and in my humble view of the case, the attainment of this object would be the commencement of a new era of prosperity for them.

29. But, however this may be, it is quite evident that the most pressing want of this colony at the present moment is labour. By the operation of the West India Encumbered Estates Act, which in all probability will shortly be put in force in Grenada, a fresh start might no doubt be given to its industry by the opportunity afforded to capitalists to invest their money in estates unfettered by collateral claims, and with unquestionable titles, but such purchasers can hardly be expected to come forward until it can be shown with some degree of certainty that the physical means of cultivating the land thus offered to them will not be wanting. It is very doubtful whether even then anything like a resuscitation of the estates which have already been abandoned would ensue, if the production of sugar and rum upon them were still to be the object aimed at. Many of them, however, are by nature much better adapted to other kinds of culture, and it is probable they will eventually fall into the hands of persons capable of appreciating this fact, and acting upon it. The produce of the island in cocoa, coffee, nutmegs, and other spices is already beginning to assume an importance hitherto unknown to it, and I am inclined to think the natural and, therefore, healthy development of minor branches of agricultural industry which is thus going on will exercise a very considerable influence upon the future prospects of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke,
&c. &c. &c.

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ABSTRACT RETURNS, "Blue Book," 1852, 1853, and 1854.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties. Imports.	Exports.	Tonnage.	Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	9,638	Nil.	1,092	6,636	17,366	410	–
1853	8,613	Nil.	858	5,567	15,038	–	2,328
1854	6,963	Nil.	765	7,538	15,266	228	–

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	3,995	820	2,313	851	2,329	352	6,234	16,894	1,410	–
1853	4,122	820	2,478	1,097	2,358	390	5,865	17,130	236	–
1854	4,116	820	2,507	1,081	2,448	759	6,313	18,044	914	–

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Poor.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.	Remarks.
			£	£	
1852	Included in other Expenditure.		576	576	Colony hospital expenditure.
1853			1,307	1,307	Colony hospital, streets, and harbour expenditures, not inserted in former Blue Books.
1854			1,092	1,092	

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
1852	3,872	10,519	14,391	1st column includes salaries of Governor, stipendiary magistrates, customs officers, and postmistress.
1853	3,520	10,217	13,737	
1854	3,445	1,918 (Ordnance)	5,363	2d column, all military expenses except those for 1854, which includes only the Ordnance expenditure. The Commissariat Establishment having been withdrawn previously to the close of the year.

Population (estimated).

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1852	15,713	16,958	32,671	Per Census taken on 3d October 1851.
1853	- -	- -	34,077	Estimated decrease from mortality by cholera.
1854	- -	- -	31,187	

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1852	133	14,788	The returns are not to be depended upon.
1853		17,722	
1854		13,220	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1852 1853 1854	Estimated at £30,000.	Not known.	

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1852	10	14	4,829	10,649	32·	No real decrease in attendance, but returns for 1854 more correct.
1853	11	16	4,770	11,916	35·	The number of sittings does not include those of the Roman Catholic Churches.
1854	11	17	5,160	8,376	25·63	

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1852	1,013	815	1,828	5·51	Decrease occasioned by cholera and no return from Roman Catholic Priest of St. George.
1853	967	1,057	2,024	5·93	
1854	1,078	638	1,716	5·25	

Imports. *Exports.*

	Value in Sterling.				Value in Sterling.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	73,049	48,408	28,261	149,718	113,999	12,547	5,394	131,940
1853	71,981	44,181	22,898	139,060	104,432	14,289	5,234	123,955
1854	54,827	37,208	20,375	112,410	124,575	12,231	1,591	138,397

Shipping.

	Inwards Tonnage.				Outwards Tonnage.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1852	7,193	10,015	4,210	21,478	6,423	9,738	5,803	21,964
1853	9,559	9,775	4,460	23,794	4,941	9,563	7,516	22,020
1854	8,492	5,515	2,952	16,959	5,630	6,929	4,282	16,841

Return of Crimes and Offences.

Year.	Felons.	Misdemeanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1852	27	33	119	179	–	25	0·54	10
1853	44	50	120	214	35	–	0·65½	12
1854	49	77	168	294	80	–	1·11⅛	16

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GENERAL REPORT on the Government House, Grenada; State of Repair of the Buildings State of the Furniture provided from Public Funds, and of the Arrangements under which the latter is provided, &c.

THE Government House of this colony was erected in 1800, and it has since been repaired from time to time, as required, at the expense of the colony.

It is situated on an eminence directly above the town and harbour of St. George, from which it is distant about half a mile, and adjoining the public road leading from St. George to Richmond Hill, where are the forts, barracks, hospital, and other military buildings formerly occupied by Her Majesty's troops.

The house is separated from the public road, which it overlooks, by a lawn sloping down towards the road, and which forms part of the grounds by which the house is surrounded.

Government house is constructed of brick, and roofed with tiles. It is a two storey building in the modern style of domestic architecture, standing on a raised platform or terrace, with cellars beneath.

The ground floor contains an entrance hall 42 feet 8 inches by 15 feet 6 inches, in which is the main staircase; dining room and drawing room, each, 43 feet by 24 feet; library, 16 feet 4 inches by 15 feet 6 inches; gallery and back staircase.

The upper floor contains a hall 24 feet 6 inches by 15 feet 9 inches; corridor, 25 feet 4 inches by 15 feet 3 inches; private office, 19 feet by 15 feet; five bedrooms, two of which measure, each, 22 feet 6 inches by 19 feet; and the others respectively, 17 feet 3 inches by 16 feet 6 inches; 22 feet 3 inches by 16 feet; and 22 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 6 inches; with a dressing-room attached to the latter, measuring 16 feet 6 inches by 10 feet 2 inches.

Attached to the house is a spacious tank and a bathing house.

The offices are detached from, but immediately adjoining the house, with which they are connected by covered passages.

They are contructed partly of rubble masonry and partly of wood.

The exterior of the house and offices is in a fair state of repair, with the exception of the wood work on the leads, which requires renewal.

The interior of the house is generally in good condition, except the beams of the roof trusses, and the wood work of the ceilings of the upper storey, which are much injured by dry rot and white ants, some of the plastering, especially round the window frames, requires repair, and the paper on the walls of some of the bedrooms has been injured by leakage of the eaves, gutters, and rain-water pipes. The wood work in general, however, (though as yet, with the above exceptions, tolerably sound,) show symptoms of approaching decay in many places, both in the house itself, and also in the offices, some of the door and window frames in the latter being already much affected.

The furniture of Government House, with the exception of some articles, the private property of the Lieutenant Governor, is found by the colony.

The oilcloth on the floor of the dining room is much dilapidated, and requires renewal, or rather removal, as it is very injurious to the flooring boards by preventing a free circulation of air. The rest of the furniture is in good order, but of a very plain and antiquated description, and deficient of many of the requirements of a well furnished modern mansion.

The furniture and fittings of the offices are much worn and decayed

I have, &c.

(Signed) PETER PATERSON, C.E., Assoc. Insti. C.E.,
Surveyor of Roads, Public Works,
and Buildings.

June 5, 1855.

ACCOUNT of Receipts and Expenditure of Waterworks at St. George's, Grenada.

Years.	Sums invested.			Charges of Establishment.			Sums received.			Remarks.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1835	600	0	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	
1836	–	–	–	13	4	0	277	11	8	2 per cent. on valued rental of all houses, and 2*d.* currency per ton on vessels clearing. Exchange at 250 per cent.
1837	1,240	0	0	26	10	0	292	7	11	
1838				111	2	0	291	7	2	
1839				163	7	5	276	11	10	
1840				92	13	8	298	6	0	
1841				1,115	3	4	288	19	5	
1842				87	17	5	261	6	11	
1843				143	10	0	172	11	7	Taxes reduced from 2 to ½ per cent. on valued rental of houses, and raised from 2*d.* late currency to 2*d.* sterling per ton on vessels clearing.
1844				122	9	9	198		5	
1845				88	14	8	176	6	10	
1846				102	5	2	189	9	10	
1847				87	13	8	214	9	10	
1848				67	13	1	189	11	6	
1849				67	18	7	175	0	8	
1850				94	10	8	144	5	10	Tax on houses expired.
1851				67	0	7	154	11	4	
1852				61	8	2	144	12	0	Tax of 2*d.* per ton on vessels clearing.
1853				65	9	4	123	3	4	
1854				69	2	4	108	1	2	
	1,840	0	0	2,647	13	10	3,977	1	3	

The items under the head "sums invested," comprise the contract cost of furnishing and laying down the pipes.

The charges of the establishment embrace the salary of the superintendent and allowance to the receiver of the tax, the building of a reservoir, and the cost of laying down an additional line of pipes for the better accommodation of the shipping, and for the cost of pipes and annual repairs of the water works.

The expense attending the establishment having been defrayed out of the public revenue, no interest either on the receipt or expenditure has been charged.

MATTHEW DAVIES, Public Treasurer.

Treasurer's Office, 22d May 1855.

SIR, Grenada, June 10, 1855.

IN framing my report on the common gaol of this island for the year ended 31st December 1854, I deem it unnecessary for the present to refer to those several minor subjects of complaint which have from time to time been represented to the Executive, and still remain undressed; for if any of the Government buildings are to be converted into a prison, or a new one is to be erected on the same site, those grievances might be borne with a little longer; but I feel it my duty to advert to that subject of paramount importance which is assuming a more serious aspect every day, and which, if considered in a right spirit, will at once show the imperative necessity of having a new gaol on a different principle altogether from that which at present exists. I allude to the increasing inconvenience arising from want of accommodation in the building, and the total impossibility, from its construction, of effecting any regular classification of the prisoners, or enforcing properly the rules and regulations of the gaol, or maintaining that system of reformatory discipline which has been found to succeed, most beneficially, in other establishments of a similar description.

In order to show more clearly the construction of the prison, and the constantly overcrowded state of the buildings, I have carefully measured the separate rooms or wards, and drawn a plan of the whole, to be attached to this report.

By reference to the drawing, then, it will be perceived that the prison consists of two airing yards, with a building in each (one of which contains two storeys), and one in front facing Young Street, occupying together a space of 3,139 square feet; but so badly constructed are their interior arrangements, that a great deal of room is lost, and the prison is rendered incapable of containing one half the number it otherwise would.

On the ground floor in the inner yard there are four large cells, which are, however, very damp, and almost unfit for use. The first floor (the entrance to which is by an open flight of stone steps from the yard to the middle of the building) is divided into two compartments. That on the left is a large ward called the stock room, measuring 21 feet 7 inches by 18.6 and 8 feet high, containing 3,194 cubic feet, in which fifteen men are

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now confined, and as many as twenty have been confined at one time. That on the right is subdivided into six wards, by wooden partitions, averaging 8.1 by 7.7, and 8.10 high, about 540 cubic feet each, in each of which two men are generally locked up, usually of the penal gang, the most refractory of all the prisoners.

From the centre a staircase leads to the second floor, which is divided into three rooms, one on either side, measuring each 23.3 by 19.1 and 8 feet high, containing 3,549 cubic feet each, and a small room in front of the landing place 9.11 by 7.8, equal to 547 cubic feet, in which debtors and persons confined for fines and penalties are generally promiscuously placed. All these wards are used both as day and sleeping rooms.

Fronting the outer yard the ground floor consists of six solitary cells, differing slightly in dimensions, but averaging, say, 3.6 by 7 and 6.6. high to centre of arch 159 cubic feet each. Above them, on the left is the female apartment, one single room, 9.1 by 9.9 and 9.10 in height, equal to 870 cubic feet, in which are now three female prisoners, but as many as seven have been there confined together at one and the same time. On the right are the turnkeys' quarters, consisting of four small rooms.

Of the building in front, the ground floor is divided into three rooms, 10.8 high That on the right, 15 by 6, as a store for the irons and implements of the gaol, that on the left, 14.10 by 9.9, as a sort of hospital for the sick, and the centre, 25 by 14.11, where the treadmill used to be, as a working room and for issuing the dietary, &c. Over the whole are the apartments of the gaoler, comprising three rooms.

Now the whole available space contained in these eleven wards amounts to 14,249 cubic feet, and it will be perceived at a glance how constantly overcrowded the gaol is; when we consider the daily average for the last three years was no less than forty, how difficult it is to isolate the prisoners or maintain a separate system, or even to keep the sexes apart, and how utterly impossible to carry out those requirements of Rule 12, allowing 1,000 cubic feet to each person, when upon that scale the gaol should contain only fifteen prisoners.

By the returns furnished the Executive from time to time it appears that this number has frequently been more than quadrupled, as the following extract will show :—

Year.	Greatest Number in Confinement at any one time.	Daily Average during in the Year.	Number of Persons in the Year.
1851	63	40·99	—
1852	70	40·00	179
1853	56	39·35	214
1854	49	36·00	294

It requires no argument to prove that such a state of things is pregnant with a dangerous tendency to subvert all order, subordination, and discipline, and is not only harassing to the officers of the prison by increasing the chance of escape and the risk of combination and outbreak, and at the same time disabling them from exercising any wholesome restraint or effective surveillance, but it is also injurious to the prisoners themselves, since it exposes the comparatively innocent and less criminal to the contaminating influence of the more hardened and depraved offender.

If the object of imprisonment be to reform the wicked instead of degrading them, and that of classification to protect the young and less hardened transgressor from the injurious consequences of associating with worse characters, and to hold out an inducement to all to behave well in prison by the hope of reward and the fear of punishment, then I beg respectfully to record my opinion that the common gaol of St. George's, Grenada, as now constituted, is totally unfit to effect so humane and philanthropic a purpose.

Crowded as it constantly is with a heterogeneous mass of the lowest classes, old and young, male and female, all huddled up together from want of room, I would almost say like the unfortunate victims between the decks of a slaver (and when the temperature of the place is considered the comparison would hold good as regards the sleeping of so many persons in such confined space) it presents a positive temptation to crime, and tends more to harden and confirm the evil disposed in their wickedness than to effect any beneficial change in their habits and feelings.

Already the visiting magistrates find it difficult to repress the daily acts of insubordination; and when solitary confinement on bread and water fails, there is no election between a harsher or a milder treatment—no means of resorting to those rigorous steps by which the stubborn and refractory are made to feel they are powerless, and that their condition is in all respects worse than when they were at large, and thus are easier humbled and subdued, nor any possibility of trying those meliorating measures that are calculated to act upon the sensibilities, and excite those better feelings which may have

become dormant, or blunted and seared by a course of dissipation and crime, and which it is the benevolent object of the modern system of imprisonment to revive and sharpen, in order that the mind, softened and prepared by solitude and confinement, may be disposed to receive those impressions which lead to sorrow and repentance, and the sinner be eventually restored to society a penitent and reformed man.

I am aware that this subject has frequently been brought before the authorities, for so far back as 1844 the Governor appointed a commission to inspect and report on the state of the prison; and as it is only by perseverance and reiterated representations that any great reform has been achieved, I trust I may be permitted to quote the following passage from that report:—

"As regards the fitness of the present building for a place of confinement, we consider "that in its present state the disadvantages of not having a proper classification of the "prisoners, proper ventilation, and the means of maintaining cleanliness are so numerous "that unless some course be adopted to remedy these evils, we feel ourselves bound to "state to your Excellency that the gaol is wholly unfit for the purposes for which it is "intended."

Since then nothing material has been done, except the putting on of a new roof, the expense of which might have been saved for all the good it has done, having only induced the escape of prisoners. Had a few hundred pounds been added, we would by this time have had a comfortable gaol competent to all the purposes required.

As the lot is ample enough, comprising 11,407 square feet, to admit the construction of a larger building, and the site remarkably healthy, I do not think it advisable to remove the present establishment, and as the adjoining lot formerly used as a stable for the commissariat department (the position and extent of which are also marked in the plan) has now come into possession of the colony, it affords an eligible spot to form a separate department for female prisoners, so that the present ground might all be appropriated to the construction of a new gaol on the improved modern principle, the expense of which would be greatly modified by the use of the old materials and the labour of the penal gang.

True, the finances of the colony cannot at present afford any immediate outlay, but when it is considered, on the one hand, how dangerous to society at large is the disorganized state of the prison, and how totally it fails to carry out the object of justice in the punishment of crime, and on the other hand, what benefits would accrue to public morals if properly protected from the baneful influence of the wicked and depraved by making the gaol what a gaol ought to be—a place to be dreaded—a protection to the good, but a terror to the bad, I feel persuaded that no sacrifice will be held too great to attain so desirable an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. COCKBURN,
Inspctor of Prisons.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Keate,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 320.

No. 320

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbados, June 18, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 61, of the 22d ultimo, containing your report on the "Blue Book" of Grenada for 1854.

Although the delay in accomplishing the financial measures which you had recommended to the Legislature has retarded the improvements which you contemplated, I congratulate you on the progress you have made, and I regard with great interest the gradual reduction of the indirect taxes, and revival of the principle of providing by local assessment for the opening and repair of roads, for the relief of the poor, and for the support of schools.

Although the customs duties are considerably lighter in Barbados than in the smaller islands, and do not therefore press so heavily on the people, the appropriations from the general revenue for these objects have been made in aid of local assessments or contributions, a principle which has been adhered to in the last year notwithstanding the severe outbreak of cholera and the heavy disbursements it occasioned.

The organization of a system of statute labour in Grenada on the model of the Ceylon Road Ordinance, will greatly tend to facilitate the change, and the Legislature, by providing for the appointment of a civil engineer and surveyor of roads, has taken the most effectual means of securing that these and other public works will in future be efficiently and economically executed.

Not less important is the object of regulating the finances of the island by the preparation of annual estimates of revenue and expenditure, an object which, from the jealousies that have prevailed in the assemblies, has been but imperfectly attained in any of the colonies, and hence there has not been that effectual control over or responsibility for the public disbursements which the public interests have required, and it is much to be regretted that the Assembly of Grenada has hitherto opposed the formation of a separate Executive Council on which those administrative duties would advantageously have devolved.

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It is also to be regretted that there should be no local contributions in Grenada in aid of the public grants appropriated for the support of schools. In Saint Lucia a system of local assessment has been introduced, which has the advantage of creating an inducement in the parents to secure to their children the instruction thus provided for; but in Barbados the parents of the children are required to contribute from the difficulty attending the collection of a rate; I would observe to you, however, that without good training and vigilant inspection, it has not been found that the schools can be brought to a state of efficiency which would obtain for them that general support which a good school never fails to receive.

I regret to learn from your report, that since the prevalence of cholera there has been some increase in Grenada of those offences against property and the person to which the peasantry in all these colonies are more or less addicted.

In regard to the latter they have been materially checked in Barbados by the exertions of the rural constabulary in preserving the peace of their neighbourhoods; and these officers, co-operating with the stipendiary police, have been useful also in the apprehension of offenders.

I hope you will prevail on the Legislature to provide for the enlargement of the gaol, which, from the report of the inspector of prisons, is wholly inadequate for the accommodation of the prisoners, and for the introduction of a reformatory system of discipline.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. Colebrooke.

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No. 14.

No. 14.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 35.) Windward Islands, Barbados, August 7, 1855.

My Lord, (Received Sept. 6, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of Tobago, containing his report, with the Blue Book for 1854, and copy of the observations which I have addressed to the Lieutenant Governor thereupon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon.
Lord John Russell, &c. &c.

Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Shortland to Governor General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, C.B.

(No. 38.)

Sir, Government House, July 21, 1855.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1854, together with comparative abstracts of the principal returns, in accordance with your Excellency's Circular of the 7th March 1854.

A severe accident prevented the Colonial Secretary from completing the book with his usual promptitude, and I trust your Excellency will excuse the delay which has unavoidably arisen.

2. Although I am unable to report any considerable progress, still evident improvement has been attained under some important heads of service. The different departments of the Government have reached a higher degree of efficiency. The armed police is well organized, and, with the volunteer companies of the town of Scarborough and "Fort King George," amounting together to about one hundred men, provides an adequate force for internal purposes. Stations are also formed in the different districts, at which the greater part of the magisterial business is disposed of; and I hope, shortly, the practice of holding sessions in private houses will be entirely discontinued.

3. Education, too, is receiving increased encouragement. An efficient master, trained at the Government schools in Dublin, has been engaged for the school in Scarborough. It is hoped by this arrangement not only to afford a very superior education to the people generally, but effectually to secure the means of training masters for the parochial schools. I enclose a copy of a report from the schoolmaster, Mr. Rice, which already indicates some slight progress.

6 July 1855.

4. An asylum for the indigent poor is also established in one of the buildings at Fort King George, supported by voluntary contributions, principally derived from alms collected at the church in Scarborough, from which source twelve to fourteen paupers have been maintained during the year. An effort is now being made to extend the system to the respective parishes.

5. Nor are the legislative proceedings altogether void of interest. The statute book has received some useful additions, both for the better administration of justice and other matters of internal improvement. The most important, however, from the results it probably may eventually produce, is "An Act for the better Government of the Island," which, should it come into operation, will give the Governor the advantage of recognized organs in each branch of the Legislature, and it is to be hoped may thus increase the chance of cordial and united action, the absence of which has occasioned most of the difficulties now experienced.

6. Of the financial position of the colony, I regret the inability to afford an improved account. Any disposition to make the necessary effort to raise a sufficient revenue, and to confine expenditure within fixed limits, seems rather to diminish than increase. A principal cause of the present monetary derangements may be attributed to the practice of allowing each year to draw towards a close before passing the annual Appropriation Act. In reality the revenue is first spent, and afterwards appropriated. A still greater evil, however, arises from the custom of making these appropriations without reference to the amount of revenue actually collected. I do not imagine any calculation whatever is attempted. For instance, the Appropriation Act of last year, passed on the 9th December, authorizes the expenditure of 10,899*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, whilst the whole amount of revenue collected during the same period amounted to only 8,014*l.* The House of Assembly, when presenting the Bill, admitted the impropriety of the present system; and the House pledged itself, "at an early period of the "next year (1855), dispassionately to consider the subject of taxation, with a "view to its more equitable distribution, and to the providing at all times "a sufficient amount to carry on the services of the Government, commensurate "with its diminished resources." Estimates for the present year were submitted by me to the Assembly early in the month of January, when the House was invited to pass a Bill to regulate the expenditure for the year. The subject has not yet received any consideration.

10,899*l.* 4*s.* 9

8,014*l.*

7. But perhaps the more immediate cause arises from a custom which I found in operation on my arrival, of granting warrants for the payments of salaries and other services, regardless of the ability of the Treasury to meet them by cash payments. These warrants pass into the hands of the merchants and shopkeepers, and are left to find their way into the Treasury, for the payment of duties and taxes. There might be little objection to an issue of warrants, to a moderate extent, in anticipation of revenue appropriated to fixed purposes and secured by statute, provided the warrants so issued were not to exceed in amount the sum to be eventually realized. I imagine, formerly, these issues must have been so restricted, and that the practice of drawing orders on a bankrupt Treasury is an unintended result. On the 30th June last the outstanding warrants amounted to 2,683*l.*; and were a further issue to be made sufficient to cover the liabilities contracted up to that date, they would reach 4,800*l.*

2,683*l.*

4,800*l.*

8. I need hardly assure your Excellency that it is not my intention to continue a practice so ruinous to the real interests of the colony; that I have invited the House of Assembly to redeem its pledge; and that the future issues of warrants will be confined within the ability of the Treasury to meet them.

9. The Import Returns show a gradual decrease in value under the respective heads, but not to any material extent. It would appear, however, that trade with the British Colonies is on the increase.

10. The extent of the exports depends entirely on the sugar crop. I am not aware that the decrease which appears is attributable to any other cause than the weather. A crisis, however, has commenced which will require all the energy of the colonists successfully to meet. The various estates, hitherto almost entirely cultivated by absentee proprietors, through the medium of local agents, on which large sums of money have been annually expended, are on the eve of being conducted under a changed system of management. The

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merchants, finding no adequate remuneration for their capital, some time since began to contract their advances, with the view of finally withdrawing from the speculation. Other proprietors have followed the example. A few estates have consequently been sold, others let, and some abandoned. It is believed that the year 1856 will see the system of absentee cultivation entirely thrown aside. A change so sudden cannot fail to cause some distress, and to affect the exports of future years. Fortunately, however, the labouring classes have made great efforts to provide against the emergency. The weather has been exceedingly favourable; the coming crop gives promise of more than ordinary productiveness, and the island was never better supplied with food. I do not view this change with any degree of uneasiness, under the persuasion that every approach towards the attainment of a resident proprietary body must tend to eventual prosperity.

11. No public work of any kind has been undertaken during the year. The question of the proposed construction of a gaol out of the hospital and military prison at Fort King George still remains undecided by the Legislature. It has been notified to the House of Assembly that the Scarborough Gaol will be declared unfit for use, under the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament "for the better Government of Prisons in the West Indies," unless suitable provision be made within a reasonable time for the number of prisoners usually incarcerated therein.

15,205. 5,800.

12. The population may now be estimated at 15,205: of these about 5,800 are engaged in agriculture,—a number quite equal to the present demand for labour.

9 July 1855.

13. I enclose the copy of a letter from the Colonial Secretary, explanatory of the delay which has arisen, and of the inability to complete, satisfactorily to himself, some of the returns.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c.

(Signed) WILLOUGHBY SHORTLAND.

ABSTRACT RETURNS from Blue Books for 1852, 1853, and 1854.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs' Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	4,370	Nil	538	2,567	7,476*	—	4,195
1853	4,567		468	5,814	10,850*	3,374	—
1854	3,729		271	4,014	8,014	—	2,836

* These Returns show the actual receipts in each year, and include a large portion of the revenue which ought to be collected in the previous year. The public debt on the 31st December 1854 was upwards of £4,000. A correct estimate of the financial state of the colony cannot, therefore, be formed from the returns of revenue and expenditure.

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Educational.	Police and Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	1,390	887	1,135	120	1,019	3,215	7,676	—	3,125
1853	3,079	867	1,158	305	1,653	3,711	10,773	3,097	—
1854	2,529	607	722	337	2,016	1,803	8,014	—	2,759

* These Returns show the actual sums paid from the public Treasury in each year. Many of the payments were in respect of services performed in the previous year. There will always be confusion in the public accounts, unless the system of incurring debts without raising the means of liquidating them be discontinued.

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Nil.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
1852	3,090	7,242	10,332	The first column includes the Lieut. Governor's salary, salaries of Stipendiary Magistrates, Comptroller of Navigation Laws, and Deputy Postmaster General.
1853	2,990	6,573	9,563	
1854	2,990	—	2,990	The second column includes all Commissariat and Ordnance expenditure.

Note.—The troops were withdrawn from this island on the 16th January 1854.

Population (estimated).

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1852	7,227	7,567	14,794	Census of 1851, 14,378.
1853	7,347	7,691	15,038	White population, 31st December 1853, 110 males and 50 females, including infants.
1854	7,430	7,775	15,205	31st December 1854, white population decreased about 4 per cent.

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under cultivation.	Remarks.
1852	97 square miles, or 62,080 acres.	Estimated at 7,883	Canes about 4,183; provisions about 3,700.
1853		Do. 7,800	Do. 4,000; do. 3,800.
1854		Do. 7,800	No correct data upon which to form a calculation.

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in circulation.	Notes in circulation.	Remarks.
1852	Unknown.	Nil.	In 1847 the amount of specie in circulation was estimated at £21,000. It has since decreased to a large extent.
1853			
1854			

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1852	7	9	7,350	6,685	45	* Seven Wesleyan Chapels.
1853	7	9*	7,350	6,330	42·09	
1854	7	9	7,350	6,335	41·6	Two Moravian do.

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1852	691	1,303	1,994	13·4	Church of England 8 Wesleyans - - 7 Moravian - - 3 Private School - 5 28
1853	559	1,263	1,822	12·1	
1854	443	1,485	1,928	12·6	

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Imports. *Exports.*

Year.	VALUE IN STERLING. From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	VALUE IN STERLING. To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	17,441	31,981	4,106	53,529	56,503	329	—	56,831
1853	22,488	24,624	5,885	52,997	55,200	971	—	56,171
1854	16,751	33,002	2,554	52,307	49,642	112	—	49,754

Shipping.

Year.	INWARDS. From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	OUTWARDS. To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1852	3,263	3,795	1,114	8,172	3,945	4,423	928	9,296
1853	3,673	3,180	1,182	8,035	3,274	2,843	1,804	7,921
1854	2,913	2,490	424	5,827	2,913	2,490	424	5,827

ALBERT ALLOM,
Colonial Secretary.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from ALBERT ALLOM, Esq., Colonial Secretary, to Lieutenant Governor SHORTLAND.

(No. 9.)

Secretary's Office, Tobago, July 19, 1855.

"I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1854, together with an abstract of the Blue Book Returns for the years 1852, 1853, and 1854, prepared in accordance with the instructions of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief. (Circular, 7th March 1854.)

"I regret that unusual delay has occurred in the preparation of this Blue Book. On the 16th March last a serious accident, resulting in a fractured limb, rendered me incapable of active exertion, though it never at any time prevented me from exercising some superintendence over the performance of necessary and pressing official duties. This accident confined me to my own residence for nearly four months. I am happy to state, however, that during that period, through your Excellency's kind indulgence, I was relieved from much anxiety, though the public interests were never allowed to suffer, and that the ordinary routine of my office, as performed by the clerks, had been previously reduced to a degree of efficiency which I hope may not have been unobserved.

"In transmitting the Blue Book to the Secretary of State, I trust, therefore, that your Excellency will be able to acquit me of any neglect of duty, and that you may consider this explanation of the delay to be satisfactory.

"In accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State (Circular, 9th August 1854), a report on Government House,—the state of the building, its furniture and arrangements,—has been added to the Blue Book.

"The returns usually transmitted are generally more full and complete than they have been in any previous year; but I regret to add, that, from causes which are not entirely within executive control, some of the returns are, as heretofore, either inaccurate or incomplete.

"The returns of revenue and expenditure are perhaps more complete and accurate in detail than they have been previously, owing to the new regulations under the Treasurer's Act; but I would venture to express an opinion that they are not calculated to afford a correct notion of the financial state of the colony, which was upwards of 4000*l.* in debt on the 31st December last.

" The detachments of Her Majesty's troops which had garrisoned this island were withdrawn on the 16th January 1854. In the absence of any officer to whom I could apply for the necessary information, I have been unable to ascertain the amount of the commissariat and ordnance expenditure for the short period during which they were present in the past year.

" The returns of the population, and of *baptisms*, marriages, and *burials*, have been rendered as accurately as the means at my command would allow. A general impression prevails that the Census of 1851 was inaccurate, and that the population was nearer 15,000 in 1851 than the number stated (14,378). The yearly returns of baptisms and burials, voluntarily furnished by the clergymen of the Established Church and by the Wesleyan and Moravian missionaries, cannot be considered to represent the actual number of births and deaths, for there are more deaths than registered burials, and more births than registered baptisms. In a community like this, the want of a compulsory system of registration is a very serious evil. Any calculations founded upon these returns should therefore be received with caution, and be considered only as approximating to the truth.

" The ecclesiastical and educational returns are as complete as they can be made from imperfect information * * * I hope in a future Blue Book, with your Excellency's assistance, to be enabled to secure greater attention on the part of those from whom this information is derived. I have much pleasure in submitting to your Excellency a report from Mr. Robert G. Rice, under whose superintendence the boys' school in Scarborough has been recently placed, with a view to the introduction of an improved system of education. Mr. Rice arrived here in the early part of the year, under your Excellency's auspices, recommended for the work by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland. His report is interesting, as being a record of the first attempt, I believe, in this island to introduce anything like a sound system of instruction."

16 July 1855.

COPY of a REPORT from Mr. ROBERT G. RICE, Superintendent of the Scarborough Boys' School, to Colonial Secretary ALLOM.

SIR, Scarborough, Tobago, July 16, 1855.

IN accordance with your request I beg to submit for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor the following report of the Scarborough Boys' School, at present under my superintendence.

As a preliminary to doing so, I would beg to recall some circumstances connected with my appointment to the present situation.

It is, I conceive, scarcely necessary to state that I received this appointment from his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the Rev. the Rural Dean, on the recommendation of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, under whom I was qualified for the work, and have for some years held the first rank as a teacher. It were needless for me to attempt any eulogium upon a system of education which has already gained a world-wide reputation, and conferred inestimable advantages on my native land. Suffice it to say, that, after years of practical experience of its working, I continue an ardent and enthusiastic admirer and supporter of a system which interferes with " no " conscientious religious opinions, extends to all an education at once religious, moral, " and scientific."

On entering upon the discharge of my duties here, I found the boys to evince not only little knowledge of the common branches of an elementary education, but also a total ignorance of anything like a system of scholastic discipline and tactics. In fact, such a thing was hardly to be expected in a place where no regular and systematic course of education was ever pursued, and among a population only removed one degree from slavery and all its degrading concomitants,—as yet only in the infancy of intellectual development. On my first efforts at organization, from want of the necessary machinery, I was precluded the possibility, at least for some time, of following the model of our efficient home establishments of a similar kind.

The furniture used was of the very worst kind. Neither was there a proper supply of books and requisites. I am happy to add that, through the active exertions of the Rural Dean, both these evils are likely soon to be removed. Some excellent desks, benches, &c.—in fact, much of the more needful carpenter work—has been finished. A great deal more, however, seems absolutely necessary. The windows in particular are in a very broken and dilapidated state. I am also happy to state that a large supply of books and requisites is now on its way from Dublin.

As to the measure of success arising or likely to arise from my labours, you will agree with me in saying that it would be out of place for me to say anything at present, especially at such an early stage of the proceedings. But if, from the experience I have

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already had of those committed to my charge, I may be permitted an opinion, I would unhesitatingly say, that I conceive the best and happiest results may be expected to accrue from a thorough and systematic cultivation of the intellect of the negro youth in these West India Colonies.

In conclusion I beg to subjoin the following statement of the school statistics:—

Payment per month, in advance	1*s.* 0*d.*
Number of pupils in attendance	75
Average daily attendance	46

The salary attached to the public school is made up of the following items, and derived, as you will see by inspection, from various sources:—

	£
Grant from Colonial Government	60
Do. from Her Majesty's Treasury, through the Lord Bishop of the Diocese	25
Guaranteed from School Fees by the Lieutenant Governor and Rural Dean	25
Total	£ 110

Hoping the above may prove satisfactory,

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT G. RICE.

The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to Lieutenant Governor SHORTLAND.

(No. 384.) Windward Islands, Barbados,
SIR, August 3, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 38, of the 21st ultimo, containing your report, with the Blue Book for 1854.

I have noticed with satisfaction your observations upon the improvements effected in the executive departments, the efficiency of the armed police and volunteers, and the arrangements made for the more convenient administration of rural justice, and the better provision for the indigent poor.

I regret, however, the unfavourable report you have made as to the state of the finances, attributable in part to the decline of the resources of the island, and even more to the defective and irregular system in which they have been administered. The Act to which you allude, for the better government of the island, having been specially confirmed by the Queen in Council, will afford a favourable opportunity for the reform of the system; and I am glad to observe that you intended to discontinue the objectionable practice of issuing warrants for the payment of moneys where there are no funds in the Treasury to meet them, unless provision be made by the Assembly for the payment of interest upon them while outstanding.

From an inspection of the returns it is evident that, in the present declining condition of the colony, the revenue is not likely to be sustained, and that some relief must be afforded by the reduction or consolidation of its establishments, where this can be done without injury to the public service, and with consideration for the just claims of individuals.

I hope to learn from you that the measure in contemplation for converting the military buildings into a suitable gaol may be carried into early effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

His Excellency
the Lieutenant Governor,
&c. &c.

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No. 15.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 28.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, May 19, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit the copy of a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of St. Vincent, with the "Blue Book" of that island for 1854.

No. 52, May 2, 1855.

I enclose also the copy of my reply to the observations contained in the Lieut.-Governor's report.

No. 390, May 1, 1855.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 15.

Encl. 1 in No.

Extract of a Despatch from Lieut.-Governor Eyre to Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke.

(No. 52.)

Government House, St. Vincent, May 2, 1855.

Sir, (Received May 17, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" for St. Vincent for the year ending the 31st December 1854, together with the usual abstract returns compiled from it.

1. St. Vincent "Blue Book," 1854.

2. I regret being obliged to forward the "Blue Book" in an unbound state, but I have in vain endeavoured to get it either bound or even stitched in a wrapper at St. Vincent, and I should therefore be obliged if your Excellency would cause the copy intended for the Secretary of State to be put in boards at Barbados, before it is sent on, and the expense charged against this colony.

2. Abstract returns from ditt

3. Return of P lic Debt on Jan 1853.

3. The period to which the "Blue Book" relates is antecedent to my assumption of the government of St. Vincent, but the returns of which it is composed have been compiled during my own administration. I have used every exertion to get them made as full and as accurate as possible, and though I am sensible that, owing to circumstances beyond my control, there must be many deficiencies and some errors, yet on the whole I trust the present volume will be found an improvement upon the last. Some new items have also been introduced into it, as the public debt, political franchise, list of dissenting places of worship, returns of produce, manufactures, mills, vessels built and registered in the colony, &c., a plan of the gaol, and the rules and regulations at present in force there, &c. &c.

4. Extract fro Lieut.-Governo McDonnell's D patch to Govern in-chief, No. 3 May 27, 1853.

5. Governor's m sage to the Ho of Assembly, F 13, 1855.

6. Abstract re of Produce of S Vincent for 18 and 1854.

7. Returns relat to crime during the years 1853 1854.

4. I now proceed to comment upon such of the returns as appear to call for notice or remark.

Fees.

I have directed all fees heretofore received by the Lieut.-Governor as Governor or Chancellor to be paid into the treasury. The amount during the last three years has averaged 122*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* No equivalent has either been given or asked. It would be a great advantage if the system (so prevalent here) of paying public officers by fees could be wholly abolished.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1854, 20,267*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.*, was very nearly the same in amount as that of 1853, (20,381*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*), but raised in a different manner. The produce and income taxes of 1853 having been given up, and an increase of eight per cent. to the ad valorem customs duties, a new tax upon rum consumed in the colony, and an issue of treasury notes (to the amount of 1,590*l.*) substituted instead for 1854.

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The expenditure of 1854 (20,853*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*) was considerably in excess of that for 1853 (18,733*l.* 15*s.*)

The difference being chiefly due, first, to the establishment of courts of police magistrates and petty debt courts, and, secondly, to the heavy expenses entailed on the colony by the establishment of quarantine and the outbreak of cholera. 20,853*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* does not, however, correctly represent the expenditure of 1854, which indeed greatly exceeded that amount, as will be explained under the next heading.

Public Debt.

The amount specified under this heading, 1,590*l.*, represents a sum borrowed upon the issue of treasury notes redeemable in a year to make good a deficiency in the revenue; but it by no means represents the actual debt of the colony on the 31st December 1854; in fact, at that time (just about the period of my own arrival) the public debt was not and could not be at all accurately known, owing to the very peculiar and irregular manner in which all the financial arrangements of St. Vincent have heretofore been conducted. This irregularity consists in the expenditure of the colony having been carried on without any annual estimates or appropriation act, and in a great measure without any sanction of law—not, indeed, by the executive, but by irresponsible committees of the Legislature, assuming executive functions, acting under vote, resolution, or instructions from the House of Assembly, before any provision has been made to meet the expenses, not often limited in the amounts they may think proper to expend, and having themselves to audit the accounts sent in for the services rendered.

As might naturally be expected, evils of the most serious magnitude have arisen from such irregular practices—heavy debts have been incurred unknown to the executive, and without any provision having been made to meet them, and the colony has for some years past been in a state of perpetually recurring bankruptcy. Nor are these the only evils resulting from the system which has been pursued. The committees having no individuality, and being irresponsible, have not had their proceedings subjected to the scrutiny and supervision of the executive; no guarantee has existed for their adopting the best measures to secure the object sought to be attained, and no means of controlling them if they did not do so. It must be remembered, too, that the members of such committees are not salaried officers bound to give their time and best services to the public, but persons engaged in business or other private pursuits, from which they cannot spare the time, even if they had the inclination or the necessary experience to enable them successfully to superintend and direct the expenditure connected with the public service.

No greater proof of this can be given than the single fact, that, up to the 31st December 1854, the accounts for services of this nature for the whole of 1854 were not only unpaid, but for the last three quarters of the year actually not either called for or known, although amounting in the aggregate to several thousand pounds. It naturally follows that not only is the work required for the public service badly executed, but its cost greatly enhanced; for where the public creditor has to wait an indefinite time for his money it may reasonably be supposed that he compensates himself by the highness of his charges.

Having early given my attention to ascertaining the exact financial position of the colony, I found that the total debt of the colony at the close of 1854 amounted to no less a sum than 7,132*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* as shown by a return herewith forwarded (Enclosure No. 3).

Encl. No. 3.

This added to the expenditure of 20,853*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* would make a total expenditure of 27,985*l.*13*s.* 1*d.*, but from this must be deducted 2,379*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* for public accounts and casualties, which, although paid in 1854, actually belonged to 1853 The real expenditure incurred for the year 1854 would therefore be 25,606*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, of which 7,132*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* remained unpaid at the commencement of the present year, and constituted the true amount of the public debt on the 1st January 1855.

From my predecessor's report on the "Blue Book" for 1852, dated 27th May 1854 (see extract in Enclosure No. 4.) I find, that on the 1st January 1852 the debt due by the colony did not exceed 1,453*l.*; that on the 1st January 1853 it amounted to 4,687*l.*, but that the treasurer had funds in hand sufficient to pay

it off, as well as to apply a small balance to the ordinary expenditure; notwithstanding which, on the 1st January 1855, it had again augmented to the very large amount already mentioned (7,132*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*), whilst the treasury was empty and the ordinary revenue apparently not likely to be equal to meet the ordinary current expenditure, and yet during the intervening period the revenue of the colony had been augmented from 17,541*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* (which it was in 1852) to 20,247*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.* in 1854.

No doubt much of this is due to the expenses entailed by quarantine and cholera in 1854, but I do not think wholly so, and I have pointed out the circumstances thus strongly because they illustrate forcibly the working of the system which has hitherto prevailed in St. Vincent and I believe in others of the West Indian Islands, and because I believe that the results indicate as plainly as can be indicated the utter unsuitability of the constitutions under which these islands are governed, to the existing impoverished and decaying state of the West Indies.

Public Works.

Under this heading it is impossible to give more than a very vague and general outline of what has been done, as the executive have no means of ascertaining the details of the various services which were undertaken by the committees of the legislature already referred to.

In addition to the public roads, some of the lock-ups, the court house, and the government cottage were repaired at very considerable expense, but owing to the absence of any architect or other person competent to superintend what was being done, and owing also to the services being conducted not by the executive but by irresponsible committees not qualified by their practical experience to undertake the duties of an engineer, and unable to give up their time to a proper and sufficient supervision of the work whilst going on, I fear that much of the large amount spent has been in a great degree wasted, certainly not turned to the good account it might have been.

With regard to the government residence, I can say from personal knowledge that on my arrival at the close of December 1854, I found it deficient in many of the essentials and commonest conveniences of an ordinary English dwelling, as well as exhibiting indications of very considerable decay and dilapidation. Some of these deficiences I have made good at my own expense, the larger number still exist unremedied and at this very time some of the rooms are untenable from leakages in the roof, whilst the pillars of the verandahs and the supports of the floors are in other places tumbling down or giving way from decay. I believe, therefore, that a very large sum would still be required to reinstate completely the house and premises, although an amount is said to have been expended upon it during 1854 which would very nearly have built a new house of a corresponding size and character. I am unable to append any regular report upon the state of these premises from the absence of any architect or other person competent to undertake the duty properly.

Legislation.

Twenty Acts were enacted by the Legislature during the year 1854; many of these are of a temporary or unimportant character, but some of them are of a more permanent and highly useful nature. Such are the Acts establishing and regulating the Court of Grand Sessions, the Act amending the law of evidence, the Act defining the mode of procedure before justices of the peace, and consolidating their duties, and the Act classifying and consolidating offences cognizable by justices of the peace.

Two Acts were also passed affecting the constitution; one for the purpose of enabling nine members of the House of Assembly to transact business instead of eleven. The object of this enactment was, if possible, to secure a meeting of the house with sufficient frequency to admit of the legislation of the colony being carried on with regularity, certainty, and promptness; but this object has not yet been attained, and there appears quite as great a difficulty in getting nine members together as in getting together eleven.

Seven would form a better and more practicable working number in the existing circumstances of the colony, but the adoption of so limited a proportion of the whole number of representatives (nineteen) would appear to throw the whole power into the hands of a few individuals, who, living in or not very far

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away from the town, would nearly always be able to attend, and of course could carry everything their own way.

Practically this really is the case now, for, although nine members must actually meet to form the house, after having been formed, unless counted out, much of the business may be and is performed by a much smaller number.

The other Act affecting the constitution was passed for the purpose of authorizing the Government to appoint a member of the House of Assembly to act as the official organ of the Government in that house, with a view of enabling the executive either to introduce measures into the House of Assembly or to explain their policy through such organ. * * *

Political Franchise.

This is a new return introduced into the "Blue Book" for St. Vincent, and a glance at its contents will discover some startling facts connected with the working of the constitution under which the colony is governed, and to the unsuitability of which much of the confusion and embarrassment now existing must be ascribed.

The population of St. Vincent is assumed (for no correct census has lately been taken) to be 30,128, who are again supposed to be represented by nineteen members, chosen by themselves, to form a House of Assembly intended to be analogous in its constitution, powers, and privileges to the House of Commons in England.

By the return given at page 74 of the "Blue Book" it will be observed, that at the last general election in January 1853 there were only 293 electors registered for the whole colony, and that even out of this small number only 130 came forward as voters. It thus appears that out of the 30,128 inhabitants, 130 individuals actually elected the whole of the nineteen representatives, constituting the House of Assembly; and having large powers for either good or evil in relation to the whole colony which is bound by their acts, at least in all questions relating to or involving money considerations.

But I am credibly informed, that, even of these 130 who did appear as voters, a large proportion could scarcely be considered as coming forward voluntarily, but had their voting tickets taken out and paid for by the candidates who polled them; thus showing the little interest taken by the electors in the return of their members, when even the trouble of taking out their ticket or the payment of the small fee of 1*s*. would deter them from going to the poll.

In looking over the records of the returns of writs during the last few years this indifference is still more strikingly displayed, and I find therefrom (at various times) four members have been returned by ten voters, three members by five voters, three members by four voters, three members by three voters, three members by two voters, two members by three voters, two members by two voters, one member by one voter, and, in one instance, a single voter actually returned two out of the nineteen members composing the whole House of Assembly.

Nor is this indifference confined to the electors; there is often as much difficulty in getting a candidate for the representation; and several instances are on record in which after the issue of writs no return could be made in consequence of no candidate having come forward.

When all these difficulties are overcome, and the House actually constituted, a still more insurmountable impediment exists to its efficient working,—the difficulty of getting together the number required by law to constitute a quorum. At first this number was eleven, but it being found impracticable to assemble so large a proportion out of the nineteen, the minimum number was reduced to nine, and even now the greatest difficulty is often experienced in getting this reduced number together, and much delay and injury to the public interests necessarily result.

During the year 1854 the House only transacted business on twenty-eight days, and in the first quarter of the present year on eleven days, although during this last-mentioned period the embarrassed circumstances of the colony and the lapse of several important laws seemed to make it doubly essential that no time should be lost in devising, considering, and enacting many measures

vitally affecting the interests and wellbeing of the colony, and every day's delay of which must prove a serious evil, as well as render more difficult any satisfactory adjustment of the questions involved.

The real truth is, that in St. Vincent there is scarcely any resident proprietary body, and hardly any persons of education and ability who are able or willing to devote their time to the public service without remuneration.

There are few wealthy persons, or even of independent means, and each one is so absorbed in the necessary duties of his avocation as to be unable to give up his time or attention to anything else, and this state of things is daily getting worse in consequence of the impoverished and decaying condition of the West Indies.

Many of the members come in but rarely or irregularly, and as a natural result the business of the country falls into the hands of a few individuals, who, residing either in the town or in the nearer districts, are still able and willing to give an occasional attendance at the House of Assembly. This is, however, not representation.

On the other hand, the Government is powerless, and those measures which in a colony possessing a different constitution would be promptly adopted by a well organized and efficient executive, cannot here be resorted to; so, between the inefficient working of representative institutions and the inability of the executive to act without them, very little is done, and the colony still remains without many of the most essential laws and the most necessary institutions.

At this present moment there is no public hospital in operation, no orphan asylum, no refuge for the destitute, and no lunatic asylum. No law in existence for the furtherance of education, no law regulating the management of intestate properties, and none legalizing a large portion of the public expenditure; nor is any law yet enacted for raising the funds necessary to make good the anticipated deficiency in the public revenue as compared with the current expenditure for the year, or to meet the large debt owing by the colony, and for which at present not even interest is being paid.

It is true bills are either before the legislature or in course of preparation with a view to remedying some of these deficiencies, but such is either the apathy of West Indian legislators or their unwillingness to grapple with difficult and unpleasant questions, or their real inability to give up the time necessary to a proper consideration of them, that there is no knowing when any of the measures in contemplation may actually become law, or how far, if enacted, they may be adapted to attain the objects sought for.

Council and Assembly.

The legislative council is also the privy council, an arrangement which works very unsatisfactorily; first, because it is very difficult for the same individuals to keep up a distinction between their duties in one capacity and those which devolve upon them in the other, and secondly, because the Governor is deterred from having the advantage of consulting any other persons than members of of the upper house of legislature, between whom and the lower house there is a sort of hereditary jealousy and distrust, which is again reflected against the government in reference to all measures or proceedings it may adopt under the advice of the upper house when acting as a privy council.

The abolition, therefore, of the existing privy council, and the establishment of an executive council altogether irrespective of the legislative council, would, I have no doubt, prove a very beneficial measure.

The nature and constitution of the assembly has been slightly touched upon already under the heading of Political Franchise.

Civil Establishment.

The civil establishment of St. Vincent as at present constituted is far from being either complete or satisfactory. Many incompatible offices are in the hands of a single individual; some establishments are very defective and much

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underpaid, and others again are overpaid; some departments are altogether wanting which are essential to the effective conduct of the government (as audit and survey), and some are in the hands of the legislature which usurp executive functions. A copy of my finance message to the legislature on the 13th day of February 1855 is herewith attached (Enclosure 5), and will give further information on this subject.

Encl. No. 5.

Population.

No census has been taken since 1851, and even that is not to be relied on as being very accurate. During 1854 the cholera made fatal ravages amongst the labouring population, but no correct record seems to have been kept of the number of deaths in the different districts. It is estimated, I believe, that in the whole colony about 2,200 fell victims to this fearful scourge.

Education.

During the year a sum of about 900*l.* has been expended on education, but the good effects of this expenditure are likely to be lost through the apathy of the legislature, which allowed the Education Act to expire in the latter part of the year without any other enactment being substituted; and though I have strongly urged the subject upon both branches, a full third of the present year has also been allowed to pass away without anything being determined on the matter; there is, therefore, at present no law for promoting education in St. Vincent.

Imports and Exports.

The total imports of the colony for 1854 (145,772*l.*) show a decrease of 13,071*l.* as compared with the total imports of 1853 (158,843*l.*)

The chief items upon which this decrease has taken place are cattle, horses, mules, corn and corn-meal, fish, guano, manure, ice, and general merchandise and wares; at the same time an increased importation has taken place on brandy, bread, hardware, rice, shingles, soap, staves, timber, and tobacco.

The total exports of the colony in 1854 (176,797*l.*) are also less by 22,023*l.* than the total exports of 1853 (198,820*l.*)

The decrease has been chiefly in arrowroot, hides, shrub, molasses, and sugar, especially the two latter, of which the value was less in 1854 by 26,705*l.* than in 1853; and although an increased quantity of rum, amounting to 11,543*l.*, was made in the former over the latter year, a large deficiency of produce still exists, showing that the staple productions of the colony are rapidly falling off in quantity and value; and from all I can learn there is every reason to fear that this falling-off will be greater during the present year, and still greater in 1856, as it is believed that many more of the finest estates will then be thrown out of cultivation, as no longer returning any profit to the owners after payment of expenses, and in many instances actually entailing a considerable loss to them. * * *

Encl. No. 6.

A tabular return herewith transmitted (Enclosure No. 6.), giving the abstract returns of all produce of the colony of St. Vincent in 1853 and 1854, shows that in this latter year the deficiency in sugar amounted to 1,199,777 pounds, in molasses to 135,352 gallons, and in arrowroot to 114,060 pounds, but that in rum there was an increased manufacture to the amount of 51,367 gallons.

State of Crime.

Encl. No. 7.

Two returns are herewith forwarded (Enclosure No. 7.) The first contains an abstract of all commitments for trial before the Court of Grand Sessions, with a statement of the offences, and the result of the trials, for the years 1853 and 1854. From this it appears that both the number of offences was much greater, and the crimes of a more heinous character in 1854 than in 1853; but I am not aware of any causes which would account for this unfavourable result.

The second return gives an abstract for the same two years of all prisoners sent to Kingstown Gaol under sentences from the justices, with a statement of the offences for which they were imprisoned.

The number and nature of the cases are pretty nearly the same in both years, with the exception of imprisonments for debt, of which there were fifty in 1854, but only one in 1853. This difference is, however, owing to the new Petty Debt Courts having come into operation in the first-mentioned year, and the very number of the convictions show how useful and necessary such courts are.

On the whole, the state of crime in St. Vincent during the year 1854 appears to have been far from satisfactory, as compared with the previous year, and more especially so as amongst the convictions were three for murder, although fortunately only for one and the same offence. Two of the murderers were executed, and the third is still undergoing a sentence of imprisonment.

Having now gone through such of the items of information in the "Blue Book" as appear to require noticing for the purpose of explaining the present condition and prospects of St. Vincent, I proceed to offer a few suggestions as to remedial measures.

It will be at once obvious from what has already been stated that the existing circumstances are ill adapted to the present retrograding and decaying state of the colony, and that under its continuance little hope can be entertained of the evils which have been pointed out being either fully remedied or materially improved.

The people do not value, and will not work usefully, the representative institutions which they possess. The executive is utterly powerless (except so far as the personal character of the Lieutenant-Governor may carry influence) to accomplish anything without the aid of the representative body; and in endeavouring to work with and for them so many jealousies arise, so many personal feelings or private interests intervene, so many difficulties and delays of one kind or another occur, that it seems almost hopeless to expect ever to carry on the government satisfactorily or in such a manner as a governor really interested in the welfare of the colony over which he presides must desire to see it conducted. I believe myself had the executive at the commencement of the present year possessed sufficient power to have carried out with promptness and decision vigorous measures for remedying the difficulties which existed, that in the course of a year or eighteen months at the furthest the whole debt of the colony might readily have been paid off, the civil establishments properly organized and consolidated, the current revenue made to meet the current expenditure, many useful institutions brought into operation, and many necessary laws enacted, but all these advantages have been frustrated or lost or greatly retarded through the indecision or inactivity or non-meeting of the House of Assembly.

I am myself a great admirer of and a strong advocate for representative institutions in the colonies, but I confess that in their present form they do not work and are not workable in St. Vincent, and I believe, however unsatisfactory in theory it would be to take a step backwards in the political institutions in the country, that practically it would be the salvation of St. Vincent so far to modify its constitution as to unite the legislative council and the house of representatives into a single chamber, sitting under a speaker,—in fact, to adopt a form of government analogous to that at present existing in the Australian colonies. In the West Indies the absence of a proprietary body and the fact that there are few persons of intelligence, education, and respectability who are able and willing to give up their time unremunerated to the duties of legislation, constitute insuperable barriers to the obtaining of a sufficient number of qualified persons to compose two chambers * * *

Pending any radical change in the constitution of the colony, the next best thing to be done would be to abolish the existing privy council and create a new executive council, irrespective of the legislative council, and into which members of both branches might be introduced, as well as any other suitable

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persons whom Her Majesty might think fit to call thereto, unconnected with either branch.

The object of this change would be to bring the Governor into immediate personal communication with members of each branch of the legislature at a board where he could explain the objects and policy of the goverment, and discuss with the members any questions of interest or importance; objections might by these means be removed, jealousies prevented, consistency established, and a spirit of union and co-operation stimulated; and thus the executive be strengthened and supported in its endeavours to promote measures necessary for the general welfare.

A Bill having this object in view is actually now before the legislature, but it is impossible to say if it will be carried.

The House of Assembly is quite prepared to pass such a law on condition of its securing that a larger proportion of the members of the new executive council should be selected from its own house than from the council.

The council, on the other hand, have a natural repugnance to do away with their own powers and privileges, and more especially so when it is quite certain in the event of the measure being carried, that one half of their number must be excluded from the new executive council, and would be subject to the disadvantage of seeing a considerable number of members from the lower house as executive councillors obtain a precedency and distinction over them which they themselves had heretofore enjoyed.

It would appear, therefore, that between the two parties (both of whose concurrence is necessary) there is little chance of getting this important and desirable measure enacted,* and the government must still go on as before with all the difficulties and embarrassments which beset it, and without any prospect of being able to accomplish any real or permanent improvements, or to do more than continue the unsatisfactory and mischievous system which has been in existence so long.

*This bill has been thrown out by the Council, 9th May. E. E.

The only alternative would be for the Crown to exercise its undoubted prerogative, and, after abolishing the existing privy council, call into existence an executive council, to be composed of such persons as Her Majesty may be pleased to summon thereto from both branches of the legislature, or from persons unconnected with either.

The establishment of a paid executive committee as adopted at Jamaica, composed of two members of the lower and one of the upper house, has also been proposed, but there is a difficulty in the way here of paying such a committee in the present impoverished state of the colony, nor if this difficulty be removed, do I anticipate that the adoption of such a committee would be at all productive of the amount of good expected from it.

If the committee were supposed to represent the legislature the members would have to go in or out as they gained or lost the confidence of their respective chambers, but what is called responsible government is utterly impracticable in such a colony as this. Again, if the committee are supposed to be executive officers, I believe it would be better to make them so in reality, and place the several members at the heads of departments so as to secure individual responsibility instead of assigning to them as a body duties and responsibilities for which, if neglected or inefficiently performed, no one member could well be made more responsible than another.

Whatever steps, however, may be taken by the home government to remedy the sad state of things existing at St. Vincent (and I believe more or less at most of the West Indian Islands), whether it may be deemed advisable to call into operation the exercise of the prerogative, or whether it may be thought more desirable, notwithstanding all the difficulties in the way, to endeavour to get any proposed changes assented to and approved of by the local legislatures in the first instance, I believe that it would be of the highest importance to this colony if the home government could induce Parliament to grant it a temporary loan at moderate interest to enable the colony to pay off

its large outstanding debt, and to gain time for bringing the current revenue and expenditure into a better balanced relative position.

Could this be accorded, upon the legislature undertaking to pass such measures as might be considered necessary to guard against a recurrence of the embarrassments which have taken place, I believe that arrangements might readily be made both for paying off the loan in a very limited period of time, and also for ensuring that the current expenditure of the colony for the future should never exceed the current revenue.

I have been endeavouring to obtain some returns of the number of estates likely to be thrown out of cultivation, and also of the quantities of production, but I regret to say, from the great difficulty of getting anything done in this colony in anything like a reasonable time, that there is no chance whatever of my being able to procure the information I had wished for in time to send it with my report on the "Blue Book."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

His Excellency Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 15.

1854.—COLONY OF ST. VINCENT.

No. 1.

RETURN, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up of the Gross Revenue under their different heads, exhibiting the Cost of Collection and any Deductions made in their progress to the Public Treasury.

GROSS REVENUE.

Customs	Tonnage Dues.	Taxes and Excise.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Fees of Office.	Lighthouse Dues.	Canals and Public Works.	Immigrant Tax.	Interest.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Gross Amount of Revenue.	Cost of Collection.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s.	£ s. d.						£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
10,719 8 10	1,381 14 2	Rum duties - 1,410 7	337 7 0½						Miscellaneous 75 5 3	17,177 10 3½	1,250 8 9
		Liquor licences - 1,730 0							Sale of Treasury Notes - 1,425 3 0		
		Charcoal „ - 46 5									
		Hucksters „ - 52 0							Total - 1,500 8 3		
		Total - 3,238 12									

No. 2.

RETURN, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up of the Disbursements under their different heads, showing the authority under which such Disbursements were made.

EXPENDITURE.

Civil Establishment.	Judicial Establishment.	Ecclesiastical Establishment.	Education.	Pensions.	Police.	Gaols.	Roads.	Expenses of the Legislature.	Hospital.	Revenue Department and Drawbacks.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Authority.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
*601 7 8	2,966 6 5	2,444 18 0	903 13 9	81 13 4	1,934 10 0½	980 1 0	1,099 7 6	*626 19 7	200 0 0	*1,129 2 4	†4,815 5 3	17,783 4 10½	By Acts of the Legislature.

* On reference to the "Blue Book," page 36, the above sums are all included, and are under the head "Civil Legislative and Revenue," 2,357*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* By this return each department is separated.

† The sum under the head "Miscellaneous" was paid as follows :—

	£ s. d.
Agricultural Society - - - - - -	50 0 0
Board of Health - - - - - - -	1,526 5 6
Quarantine expenses - - - - - -	849 6 4½
Public accounts - - - - - -	1,670 17 2½
Casualties - - - - - - -	718 16 2
	4,815 5 3

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Judicial Fines.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Tonnage.	Excise.						
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1852	9,702 13 7	1,793 12 6	2,016 15 0	460 4 4	359 12 0	58 15 0	14,391 13 7	—	—
1853	7,779 1 8	1,354 18 6	1,820 10 0	6,272 12 4	84 12 1	—	17,311 14 7	2,920 1 0	—
1854	10,719 8 10	1,381 14 2	3,238 12 0	—	337 7 0	1,500 8 3	17,177 10 3½	—	134 4 3½

Expenditure.

Year.	Civil.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1852	1,500 8 10	1,782 5 6	2,349 0 5	970 7 2	2,158 2 11	921 12 11	5,272 6 6	14,954 4 3		
1853	2,221 5 8	1,832 14 6	2,810 14 10	962 10 0	1,475 1 11	773 4 2	5,588 3 11	15,663 15 0	709 10 9	
1854	2,357 9 7	2,966 6 5	2,444 18 0	903 13 9	1,934 10 0	980 1 0	6,196 6 1	17,783 4 10	2,119 910	

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ABSTRACT RETURNS from "BLUE BOOKS," 1852, 1853, 1854.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852 -	9,702	—	1,793	2,895	14,390	—	1436
1853 -	7,779	—	1,354	8,177	17,310	2,920	—
1854 -	10,719	—	1,381	5,076	17,176	—	134

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852 -	1,500	1,782	2,349	970	2,158	921	5,272	14,952	—	210
1853 -	2,221	1,832	2,810	962	1,475	773	5,588	15,661	709	—
1854 -	2,357	2,966	2,444	903	1,934	980	6,196	17,780	2,119	—

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Poor.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.	Remarks.
1852 1853 1854					No Parochial Taxes raised in this island. The expenses for "Poor" and "Roads" are included in "Expenditure Colonial."

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
1852 -	3,150	4,586	7,736	In January 1854 the troops were withdrawn from this island. The sum of 150*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* was paid to out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital.
1853 -	3,070	8,803	11,873	
1854 -	3,070	—	3,070	

Population (Estimated).

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1852 - 1853 - 1854 -	13,957	16,171	30,128	No census taken since the 30th June 1851.

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1852 1853 1854	131	35,000	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1852 1853 1854	—	The notes of the Colonial Bank are in circulation.	No means of ascertaining the amount.

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Sittings, Church of England.	Number of Sittings, other Denominations.	Average Attendance, Church of England.	Average Attendance, other Denominations.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.
1852	14	—	5,320	—	2,615	—	
1853	15	—	4,542	—	2,955	—	
1854	19	16	4,847	—	2,860	—	

Remarks.—The average returns of attendance at the several churches and chapels, both of the Church of England and of the other denominations in the island, cannot be relied upon. As a consequence, any centesimal proportion now calculated would be fictitious.

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.
1852 - -	1,206	948	2,154	7·28
1853 - -	1,229	748	1,977	6·59
1854 - -	1,338	362	1,700	5·64

Imports and Exports, Value in Sterling.

Year.	Imports.				Exports.			
	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	83,185	41,905	41,969	167,059	178,930	22,561	3,504	204,995
1853	71,084	44,296	43,463	158,843	176,617	21,022	1,181	198,820
1854	63,313	45,106	35,353	145,772	158,750	17,608	439	176,797

Shipping.

Year.	Inwards, Tonnage.				Outwards, Tonnage.			
	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
1852	9,440	13,013	8,088	30,541	10,458	11,326	9,397	31,181
1853	7,069	14,175	5,506	26,750	9,460	10,708	6,336	26,504
1854	6,620	10,853	4,013	21,486	8,930	9,218	4,770	22,918

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Return of Crime and Offences.

Year.	Felons.	Misdemeanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1852	28	120	50	198	28	—	·66	45
1853	14	69	31	114	—	84	·38	11
1854	32	57	46	135	21	—	·45	51

Encl. 3 in No 15.

Enclosure 3 in No. 15

RETURN of Debt of this Colony on January 1, 1855.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Public salaries and all other grants paid quarterly by warrants from the Executive for the quarter ended the 31st December 1854, and those paid monthly for December	2,622	14	5			
Account of J. Rickard	288	18	9			
Account of W. Dyer	275	0	0			
Account of C. Clinton	90	0	0			
Account of Gilpin and Co. (ordered to stand over for further consideration by the Hon. House of Assembly)	69	3	0			
Warrants lodged in Treasurer's office and unpaid	80	3	4			
Public accounts to 31st December 1854 (including Colonial Hospital accounts)	2,204	15	8			
Two accounts of the Attorney General (not yet passed)	70	7	0			
Accounts of Messrs. Clowes and Co. (ditto)	81	3	4			
An account for alterations at Government House incurred by Lieut.-Governor MacDonnell (not passed yet)	10	0	0			
An item in Mr. Drape's account (ditto)	2	18	4			
	5,795	3	10			
Deduct balance in hand 1st January 1855	1,252	11	2			
				4,542	12	8
Treasury notes due in 1855				1,590	0	0
				6,132	12	8
Debt due by Board of Health for cholera expenses, not included in any of the foregoing items, and now before the Hon. House of Assembly				929	15	7
Total				£7,132	8	3

(Signed) J. M. GRANT, Treasurer.

Encl. 4 in No. 15.

Enclosure 4 in No. 15.

EXTRACT from a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor MACDONNELL, C.B., to his Excellency Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE, C.B., dated May 27, 1853.

"4. The actual debt due by the colony on the 1st January 1852 did not exceed 1,453*l.*, as appears from a return of the treasurer's annexed to my predecessor's report on the 'Blue Book' for 1851. This debt was increased to no less a sum than 4,687*l.* on the 1st January of the present year, as stated in the enclosed return from the treasurer. Yet the treasurer has already sufficient funds in hand to pay off the last instalment of that debt, and apply a small balance to the ordinary expenditure."

(Signed) RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,
Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure 5 in No. 15. ST. VINCENT

Encl. 5 in No. 15.

MESSAGE No. 5.

E. EYRE, Lieutenant Governor.

Government House, St. Vincent,
February 13, 1855.

THE Lieutenant Governor has the honour to call the attention of your honourable House to the state of the finances of the colony, and to the urgent necessity of adopting a regular, consistent, and uniform mode of appropriating the public revenue in each year. To this end the Lieutenant Governor would earnestly advise your honourable House to pass an Act granting the revenue to Her Majesty to be applied to the public uses of the colony, in accordance with a schedule to such Act to be attached.

2. This schedule should comprise all the estimates and services contemplated for the year to which it relates; and, in order that your honourable House may have before you the fullest information which it is in the power of the Executive to afford, the Lieutenant Governor has caused to be prepared an estimate in detail, showing the nature and extent of the present establishments, and quoting the authorities under which such exist.

This estimate is also accompanied by a statement of some changes which appeared necessary to render the public service more efficient.

In thus submitting to your honourable House a statement intended to show in detail the probable expenditure on account of the public service for the current year, the Lieutenant Governor begs to point out that most of this expenditure is already fixed by law, and the residue, with some few exceptions, is either fixed by resolution of your honourable House, or necessarily arises out of the first-mentioned expenditure as by law existing.

The statement submitted, therefore, must not be considered (except where specific changes are proposed) as in any way representing the arrangements or the organization which the Executive consider best suited to the wants and circumstances of this colony in its present depressed state, but only as an endeavour (excepting as above mentioned) to place before you, in a clear and connected point of view, what are the existing establishments, and the liabilities connected with them.

It will then be for your honourable House to consider whether any other, and, if so, what more satisfactory arrangements can be devised to enable the public income to meet the public expenditure, without injustice to individuals, and without impairing the efficiency of the executive administration.

Many reforms and many alterations are undoubtedly necessary in some of the public departments, but your honourable House will probably find it the wiser and more practicable course to make such changes by degrees, and as opportunities offer for their being effected, without prejudice to vested interests.

4. The Lieutenant Governor proceeds to offer a few remarks upon some of the establishments or services :—

Lieutenant Governor's Establishment.

It appears, from an estimate formerly laid before your honourable House by the late Lieutenant Governor, and from actual practice since, that an orderly attendant, and an allowance for keeping up the garden are provided for by the colony. The Lieutenant Governor believes both these items to be proper and legitimate charges upon the revenue, but in the peculiar and depressed state of the colony at present, he deems it his duty to recommend that they be struck out of the estimates, until its financial position be so far improved as to admit of their being replaced there without inconvenience.

Twenty pounds will therefore suffice for his establishment, from the date of these estimates, instead of 103*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, and a saving of 83*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* be effected.

In connexion with his department, the Lieutenant Governor has also to bring under the notice of the House that certain personal fees have heretofore been received by the officer administering the government, either in his capacity as Chancellor, or in his office as Governor; these fees, during the last three years, have amounted, according to the blue book returns, to an annual average of 122*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*

The Lieutenant Governor considers it unsound in principle, and unwise in practice, to pay any public officer whatever by fees or gratuities of any description, and he has therefore directed that all fees received or receivable on his account since entering upon the duties of his office be taken at the Colonial Secretary's office, and paid over into the colonial treasury for the public uses of the colony; this addition to the revenue, added to the saving in the expenditure, will be a gain to the public of 205*l.* 15*s.* on this department alone.

Administration of Justice.

This department involves a very heavy expenditure, but as nearly the whole of it is fixed by law there is no power of recommending any but very minor reductions.

When the colony is able to afford it the Lieutenant Governor would earnestly advise the adoption of circuit courts of the Supreme Court, which, being fixed at Barbadoes, should periodically visit each of the smaller dependencies, and the whole cost of which would be divided amongst the five governments rateably. In conjunction with this

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circuit court it would be necessary to have magistrates' quarterly sessions established' presided over by a chairman, who should be a professional man, and act as puisne judge in the absence of the circuit.

The Attorney General being the next officer in the schedule, the Lieutenant Governor begs to bring under the notice of your honourable House that an irregular and most inconvenient practice has grown up of allowing to that officer certain fees, in addition to his salary, for various services performed for the Executive. These fees or charges for the past year amounted to 159*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* The Lieutenant Governor advises your honourable House to rescind all such allowances in future, and in lieu thereof to assign an additional 100*l.* per annum of salary to the Attorney General, to cover all demands made upon his time or services by the Executive, of whatever character they may be.

The Lieutenant Governor cannot either omit the present opportunity of pointing out the unsatisfactory nature of the arrangements under which the Attorney General of the colony is called upon to prepare all bills, and in any form which any member of your honourable House may wish to introduce, by which his time and attention are often taken up in preparing documents which, professionally, he cannot approve of; which, in many instances, are never likely to become law; and which, in others, if passed through both branches of the legislature, must again be reviewed and reported upon by the Attorney General as the legal adviser of the Crown, and very often opinions be given in relation to them, pointing out (owing to alterations made whilst passing through the legislature) their illegality, their inconsistency, or their unsuitability to the end proposed.

The Lieutenant Governor cannot too strongly urge upon your honourable House, that the Attorney General should only be called upon to prepare such bills as may be recommended by members of your honourable House, being also members of the Executive Council, and that all others should be prepared by the members themselves who wish to introduce them, as is the case in England, and in many of our colonies.

The provost marshal's is an office held under a patent, and therefore not to be equitably disturbed during the tenure of the present holder; but the Lieutenant Governor is of opinion, that in proportion to the pay of other offices, the salary and emoluments attached to it are much too high, and whenever a vacancy occurs, he would recommend that a revision should be made, all personal fees abolished, and the office be united with that of police magistrate, by which the cost of one of those departments would be saved—a consolidation which he has known to answer and work well in colonies possessing a much larger population, and a far greater revenue than St. Vincent.

The office of clerk of the Crown requires no further notice, than from the impropriety of its being held by an officer filling the high and responsible position of Colonial Secretary; but this functionary holds so many and such incompatible appointments, that, until some effectual change can be brought about, it is impossible the machinery of government can work smoothly or satisfactorily. The Colonial Secretary is properly and ought to be the chief officer of the executive, and his standing and position should be second only to that of the Chief Justice, but in this colony, instead of being a member of the Legislative and Privy Councils, the Colonial Secretary acts as their clerk, and has only precedence after all the members of the House of Assembly.

In addition to the offices already mentioned, of colonial secretary, clerk of the Privy Council, clerk of the Legislative Council, and clerk of the Crown, the officer holding these appointments also holds, in conjunction with them, the still more incompatible offices of secretary of the Supreme Court, and registrar of wills and deeds. He may thus be required, at one and the same moment, to act as secretary of the Supreme Court, as registrar of deeds or wills, as clerk to the Legislative Council, and to attend upon the Lieutenant Governor in the capacity of colonial secretary. The absurdity of such a state of things is too obvious to call for further remarks, and as might be supposed, the duties of so many and such incongruous offices are not and could not be properly performed by any one person. The fault is not in the individual who holds such a plurality of offices, but in the system which permits it.

The Lieutenant Governor would strongly recommend, that whenever the opportunity offers for making the change, a separate officer should be appointed, under the title of "Registrar," who should unite in his person the duties of registrar of deeds and wills, secretary of the Supreme Court, registrar of births, deaths, and marriages (when an Act is passed requiring such registry), and curator of intestate estates; these offices being in themselves all compatible, and the duties, in such a colony as this, easily dischargeable, by any one person of ordinary industry and ability.

The next department requiring to be noticed is that of the coroners, in which the charges paid by the public are unusually high, being, I am informed, at the rate 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* for each inquest (in one case as much as 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*)

But, as the rates are said to be sanctioned by the legislature, and the coroners hold their offices under commissions, it would seem unjust to alter the scale of pay to the present holders; the house will, however, appreciate the costly rate at which this service is obtained, when informed that in the colony from which the Lieutenant Governor last came, and where the expense of living and moving about were quite as great as in St. Vincent, 20*s.* per inquest, and 9*d.* mileage, were the rates established by law. Connected with this question is that of remuneration of medical witnesses, and the Lieutenant Governor would advise that a law should be enacted, fixing such a scale as your honour-

able House may deem fair and reasonable. In the colony referred to the fee for giving evidence was 1*l.* 1*s.*, and 1*s.* mileage, and if called upon to make a post mortem examination, 2*l.* 2*s.* additional.

Treasurer's and Collector of Customs' Department.

The customs establishment appears to require an entire re-organization to make it effective, but as the necessary changes would entail some additional expense, it will probably be better to leave the department as it is, at least for the present year. The Lieutenant Governor cannot omit, however, bringing under the notice of your honourable House the impolicy of giving the heads of departments high rates of salary, and leaving them to organise their establishments in any way they place; sound policy requires that all persons employed in any department should be regarded as being in the public service, and not in the private employ of the individuals who may, for the time being, be at the head of such department.

In the treasury department, the gentleman who acts as clerk is paid 150*l.* per annum by the treasurer, and is considered as his private clerk. The Lieutenant Governor would advise your honourable House to withdraw 150*l.* per annum from the salary of the treasurer, and to vote it instead as salary to his clerk, so as to give that officer a proper standing in the public service.

Colonial Secretary's Department.

Having already drawn the attention of your honourable House to the incompatible nature of the offices held by and the duties expected from the Colonial Secretary, the Lieutenant Governor will now confine his observations to the state of the secretary's department. In this office are at present two clerks, each of whom is receiving from the Colonial Secretary a salary of 75*l.* per annum, and both are regarded as his private clerks. One of these clerks has been in the office only a few months, but the other has been employed there for a period of ten years. That this gentleman has been a useful and hardworking servant of the public (though not recognized as such) is fully proved by the numerous records kept in his handwriting, and the Lieutenant Governor can himself bear testimony to his industry and exertions, during the period he has been personally in the colony.

It does seem a very hard case that a young man so situated and so deserving should, after ten long years of service, be in no better position than that of receiving 75*l.* per annum, without any prospect of advancement in the public service, and without being recognized as belonging to it. The Lieutenant Governor would earnestly recommend your honourable House to do what in this case would be a simple act of justice. He would recommend your honourable House to withdraw a sum of 150*l.* per annum from the salary, proposed to be given, under bill, to the Colonial Secretary, and to apply it instead, as a salary, to the two clerks, at the rate of 75*l.* each, and thus place both those officers upon a proper footing in the public service; but the Lieutentant Governor would further recommend your honourable House to vote an additional sum of 50*l.* per annum to the senior clerk for the present year, and to raise this very inadequate amount again to 150*l.* another year, if the revenue of the colony is then able to bear the increase.

The Lieutenant Governor would only remark further, in reference to the department under consideration, that whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of Colonial Secretary, it will be highly advantageous in this, as in all other cases, to assign a fixed salary to the office, and to require that all fees and gratuities of every description be paid into the Colonial Treasury for the public uses of the colony.

Police Establishment.

The present limited strength of the Police Force is not sufficient for the ordinary requirements of the colony, and would be most inadequate in case of any emergency arising. In the absence of any military, militia, or volunteers, the Lieutenant Governor would gladly see a more numerous and a more efficient Police Corps established; but in the existing state of the colonial finances he does not feel justified in recommending any other alterations than an addition of 50*l.* per annum to the salary of the superintendent.

Gaol Establishment.

The expenditure of this department is very considerable, and the salaries appear high, (in Grenada the gaoler receives 100*l.*, the matron 36*l.*, two turnkeys 36*l.* each, and a superintendent of penal gang 63*l.*,) but being fixed by law, a difficulty exists in altering them. The only reduction, therefore, which seems practicable, is to dispense with one of the three superintendents, and re-employ him in the first vacancy which occurs in the Police Force, if disposed to enter that service. The cost of rations is very high, but the daily average number of prisoners is also very large, amounting to no less than thirty-four per day throughout the past year.

Surveyor and Engineer's Department.

This establishment is already provided for by law, and the Lieutenant Governor believes it will prove one of the most useful and economical arrangements yet made by

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the honourable House. One of the most important advantages resulting from it will be a vigilant and skilled supervision of all expenditure laid out upon the roads.

Auditor General's Department.

The necessity for this department has been long felt, and the Lieutenant-Governor believes your honourable House will exercise a wise and judicious economy in at once providing for it. The cost of the department will probably soon be saved, in the regular and careful examination of the public accounts, independently of the direct saving in the cessation of the payment heretofore made for auditing the treasurer's accounts.

Harbour-master's Department.

The necessity of having some officer to act as harbour master and quarantine officer, and to board vessels on behalf of the Customs, seems too obvious to require any comment. The Lieutenant Governor proposes, if your honourable House sanctions the expense, that Mr. Lomas should be nominated to the post, and should retain with it his present duties as Keeper of Fort Charlotte. The very inadequate remuneration of 75*l.* has been suggested in consideration of the depressed state of the public finances, but with a recommendation that it should be raised to 100*l.* next year.

Clerical Department.

The clerical establishment is a very heavy charge upon the revenue, amounting to nearly one fifth of the whole, but being fixed by law seems to call for no further remark.

Roads.

In the present state of the finances of the colony the Lieutenant Governor recommends your honourable House to strike off from the appropriations made out of the general revenue all sums payable on account of roads, and to provide for the roads being kept in repair, by an Act throwing the burden (as it ought to be thrown) upon the districts or parishes, to be met by local assessment upon lands or houses, and by taxes upon horses, mules, wheel carriages, &c. &c. This arrangement, whilst it will be a step in the right direction towards a system of providing locally for local objects, will not prevent the services of the colonial engineer being made available in superintending and directing the expenditure of all moneys raised for the purpose, as the executive would always take care to direct that officer to undertake the duty, under the general direction of the local committees of each district.

Miscellaneous Department.

The first item is salary to the Government printer, paid heretofore apparently without any sanction of law, and on account of no service, that the Lieutenant Governor is aware of, inasmuch as all the printing done for the colony is paid for independently. The Lieutenant Governor proposes to withdraw a salary drawn under such circumstances, and to pay in future only for work actually done.

The Lieutenant Governor regrets that a larger sum cannot be put upon the estimates for the Colonial Hospital, but he earnestly trusts that so useful and necessary an institution may again shortly be opened, even if only upon a limited scale, in the hope that another year larger funds may be applicable to its more complete reorganization; whenever this can be undertaken, the Lieutenant Governor would strongly recommend the appointment of a colonial surgeon, at a moderate fixed salary, who should have charge of the hospital, and attend the gaol, the police, lunatics, and paupers. The appointment of coroner might also be usefully and economically combined with that of colonial surgeon.

The colonial agent's salary is now recommended to be withdrawn, as the colony does not derive, and has not derived for a great number of years, any advantages whatever from having such an agent.

Education.

The last, but not the least important, service on the schedule, is that of education. The Lieut. Governor cannot too urgently impress upon your honourable House the necessity of making the largest provision possible, in the present state of the colony, for ensuring the systematic and permanent establishment of schools, and he would earnestly request you to endeavour to secure the most useful and extensive application of whatever system may be devised, by endeavouring to found it upon such principles, of a general and liberal kind, as may ensure the co-operation and support of all religious bodies.

5. The total cost of all the departments and services proposed to be provided for amounts to 14,330*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*; but it must be remembered that this includes everything, and that there will be nothing unknown or unexpected to be met hereafter in the shape of public accounts. Indeed the Lieutenant Governor holds it to be essential to the satisfactory working of the new system of conducting the financial arrangements, that no service should be provided for or expenditure incurred, either by Act or under resolution of your honourable House, which does not appear in the annual estimates, and for which adequate means of provision are not clearly shown in the estimate of revenue for the year.

In cases of emergency, or where, from unforeseen circumstances, the provision made for any particular service is likely to prove insufficient, the proper course to adopt will be to bring in a supplemental supply bill, specifying the additional sums required, and showing how such are to be met by the revenue.

6. The Lieutenant Governor also begs to bring under the notice of your honourable House, that although the sums inserted in the schedule must, if voted, be considered as the maximum expenditure to be incurred for the services to which they respectively relate, such sums are by no means to be considered as the minimum, but every practicable saving will be strictly and rigidly enforced in the application of the funds.

It must also be pointed out that the practice heretofore prevailing of paying personally to officers allowances provided for the contingencies of their departments, as for stationery, forms, rent of office, &c., will at once be done away with, and the amounts provided for such services be only disbursed for the actual service, when carried out, in accordance with a requisition sent in to and approved by the Lieutenant Governor, prior to the expense being incurred. By these and other concurrent arrangements, the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the public expenditure will for the future be placed under a careful and efficient supervision and control.

7. The Lieutenant Governor now turns to the ways and means of providing for the expenditure proposed.

He finds, from the Estimate of Revenue laid before your honourable House upon the opening of the present session,—

	£	s.	d.
That the estimated revenue then calculated upon, exclusive of the proceeds arising under the Wine Act, was - - - -	13,495	0	0
But the Lieutenant Governor is led to believe that a small increase upon the Quarantine Tax of 4*d.* on tonnage, may take place to the amount of about - - - - - -	66	13	4
Making, therefore, the revenue, under the heads calculated upon at the time that estimate was made out, to be - - -	13,561	13	4

and consequently leaving a deficiency of 768*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* to be paid for in some other way. To meet this it is proposed to amend the Act which imposes a duty of 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton upon shipping, and substitute for that amount a sum of 2*s.* 2*d.*, being an increase of 8*d.* per ton; but as this extra duty will not fall upon the small inter-colonial traders, the tax will, it is hoped, prove both useful and inoppressive, and not in any way interfere with that freedom of commercial intercourse which it is so desirable to promote.

Another source, from which it is proposed to raise a small amount of revenue, is by requiring auctioneers to take out licences, and by imposing a duty of one per cent. upon the gross proceeds of all sales by auction. The licences of this description are customary in almost every colony but this, and the utility of placing the auction business under some kind of guarantee is obvious. The same fee as charged in Grenada, viz., 20*l.* for each licence, might be properly adopted here.

The proceeds of these two additional taxes are estimated as follows, viz:—

	£	s.	d.
Additional tonnage duty of 8*d.* - - - - -	533	6	8
Auctioneers' licences and one per cent. on auction sales - -	62	10	9
To these are to be added fees heretofore paid to the Lieutenant Governor - - - - - - - -	122	11	8
Miscellaneous receipts (amounting in 1854 to 75*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*) - -	50	0	0
	768	9	1

making together a sum which just balances the deficiency.

9. In submitting this estimate to your honourable House, the Lieutenant Governor has taken no account of the proceeds to be received under the "Wine Act, 1855," as all such receipts have been specifically set apart by your Honourable House, to meet the outstanding liabilities incurred for public accounts prior to his assumption of the government of this colony. These liabilities, as far as the Lieutenant Governor is able to ascertain, amount to a sum of rather more than 4,000*l.*, and it will unavoidably require some considerable time to pay them off, under the arrangements made, though he believes that there is no reason to doubt their being easily paid off under the Act passed for that purpose.

10. There is still one more large and important item, not yet referred to, and still to be met. The Treasury notes issued on account of quarantine and cholera, amounting in the aggregate to 1,590*l.*, and all falling due during the present year.

This amount has not been introduced into the estimates, because it is unconnected with the expenditure of the year, but the Lieutenant Governor proposes that it shall be met by a duty upon tobacco. In most colonies, as in England, tobacco pays a high duty, and the Lieutenant Governor believes it to be one of the best and most legitimate and least oppressive sources of raising a very considerable revenue An objection has been urged that tobacco is easily smuggled, but in the colony that the Lieutenant-Governor lately came from the facilities for smuggling were certainly as great as they can be here, and yet a very large amount was annually raised, by imposing a duty of 2*s.* per lb. on snuffs and cigars, and 1*s.* per lb. on all other kinds of tobacco.

ST. VINCENT.

The Lieutenant Governor would propose that the same scale should be adopted here, and your honourable House will find, from a return appended to the estimates, showing the average importation of tobacco during the last five years, that the large sum of considerably more than 2,000*l.* will be easily raised, and without oppression or injury to any of the true interests of the colony.

This sum will not only cover the total amount of Treasury notes, but leave a considerable surplus to be carried to the general revenue of the colony; and here the Lieutenant Governor would especially urge upon your honourable House, if disposed to sanction the arrangements which have been suggested, not to insert in any Act, to be hereafter passed, for raising a revenue or imposing taxes, any restricting clause applying such revenue or taxes to any specific purpose, but rather to allow all such receipts to be paid into the general revenue of the country, and the specific object contemplated then be met, out of such general revenue, in the usual manner.

The Lieutenant Governor has now only to congratulate your honourable House that notwithstanding the very gloomy prospects in which the finances of this colony were involved when he addressed the Legislature at the opening of the sessions in the beginning of the year—notwithstanding the heavy outstanding debts then existing, and notwithstanding the fact that a very large additional debt would become due before its expiry,—there is still hope, a reasonable and just hope, that, by a judicious arrangement of the means within your reach for raising an increased amount of revenue, and in a way which will not oppress or burden any of the really important interests of the country (beyond what they ought fairly to be called upon to bear), the whole of the current expenditure may be fully provided for, the large debt falling due be duly met, and the outstanding claims of past years placed in a fair way of final liquidation; and all this done, too, concurrently with a considerable improvement in the organization of the public departments, and with a renewal of the appropriation for the important business of education.

The Lieutenant Governor thinks that such a prospect, dawning, as it does, even through the gloom of difficulty and debt by which the colony is beset, may well be regarded as a matter of sincere congratulation, and may well lead him reasonably to look forward to the realization of the hopes he expressed in addressing the legislature at the commencement of the year, when he ventured to anticipate that it was possible that, even by the time he was called upon to address them at the same period next year, those difficulties would be removed, those debts paid or in a fair way of being paid, and a more cheering and satisfactory prospect opened out for the future.

12. Whilst, however, the Lieutenant Governor feels that he may justly congratulate the colony upon the prospect which exists of the present financial difficulties being met, and a better state of things established for the future, he cannot forget that this must in a great measure depend upon your honourable House;—the Executive is powerless, unless seconded by your active and zealous co-operation.

And it is especially the duty of the Lieutenant Governor to warn your honourable House, that it will not be sufficient to obtain relief for existing difficulties, but that such wise and necessary measures must be adopted as will prevent a recurrence of them, and no means appear to the Lieutenant Governor more conducive to this end than the proper organization of the Executive departments, and the establishment of such an Executive Council, for aiding the Governor in his administration, as he has ventured to suggest to the legislature in a bill, which has been prepared under his directions, and which will shortly be introduced into your honourable House by the organ of the government.

By his Excellency's command,
GEORGE HAMMOND HAWTAYNE,
Private Secretary.

To his Honour the Speaker and Members of
the Honourable House of Assembly.

Enclosure 6 in No. 15.

An ACCOUNT of Produce made in the several Parishes in this Colony during the Crop, 1853.

Names of Parishes.	Sugar.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Molasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Molasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Number of Labourers.
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.							
Charlotte Parish - -	4,822	33	69	1,137¾	871	8,645,071	127,424	106,406	195,315	2,624
St. George's „ - -	1,931	4	592	265	710½	3,407,813	35,723	64,819	116,384	1,110
St. Andrew's „ - -	782		9	92½	324	1,361,009	9,386	36,449	5,120	372
St Patrick's „ - -	570	15	500	139	156½	1,088,952	17,578	18,616	107,045	463
St. David's „ - -	807	93	702	96½	334	1,664,272	10,144	34,368	12,540	890
Grenadines - -	81	24	11	31½	28½	167,196	3,812	3,226		123
Small cultivators - -									107,863	
TOTALS - -	8,993	169	1,883	1,762¼	2,424½	16,334,313	204,067	263,876	544,267	5,582

An ACCOUNT of Produce made in the several Parishes in this Colony during the Crop, 1854.

Names of Parishes.	Sugar.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Molasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Molasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Pounds of Cotton.	Number of Labourers.
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.								
Charlotte Parish - -	3,832	34	160	1,237¼	311	6,689.612	126,704	31,096	241,776	—	2,217
St. George's do. - -	2,517	41	517	605	469½	4,318,775	63,738	48,696	117,480	—	773
St. Andrew's do. - -	875	22	21	132⅓	299	1,467,624	21,760	24,390	5,300	—	420
St. David's do. - -	903	93	12	155½	189	1,609,049	16,713	19,392	—	—	842
St. Patrick's do. - -	455	1	250½	187½	44	842,638	19,498	3,970	8,402	Ginger 100	504
The Grenadines - -	75	51	49	54	10	206,838	7,021	1,010	97	Cotton 16,041	161
Small Cultivators - -							—	—	57,152	—	—
Total - - -	8,657	242	1,010½	2,371¾	1,322½	15,134,536	255,434	128,554	430.207	Ginger 100 Cotton 16,041	4,917

ST. VINCENT.

Enclosure 7 in No. 15.

Encl. 7 in No 15. ABSTRACT RETURN of all Prisoners received into the Kingstown Gaol for Trial before the Court of Grand Sessions during the Years 1853 and 1854.

Offences.	1854.				1853.			
	Committed.		Convicted.		Committed.		Convicted.	
	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.
Offences against the Person:								
Assault common—								
with intent to wound	8	–	6	–	9	–	8	–
„ to commit rape	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	–
Murder	–	–	–	–	*2	2	1	2
Robbery from the person	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other offences	3	–	3	–	4	–	1	–
	12	–	9	–	16	2	11	2
Offences against Property:								
Burglary	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Breaking into Dwelling and Embezzlement	–	–	–	–		–		–
Larceny	2	–	2	–	6	–	6	–
Stealing, killing, or wounding sheep, cattle; and other offences	4	–	2	–	6 6	–	6 5	–
	7	–	4	–	18	–	17	–
Miscellaneous:								
Escape	Nil.							
Libel								
Riot								
Keeping Disorderly Houses								
Other offences								
Total								
General Total	19		13		35	2	28	2

* REMARKS.—One black man died before trial.

ABSTRACT RETURN of all Prisoners received into the Kingstown Gaol under Sentences rom Stipendiary or Police Magistrates or Justices of the Peace during the Years 1853 and 1854.

Offences.	1853.		1854.		Remarks.
	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.	
Assault	40	—	14	—	
Breach of peace	—	—	1	—	
Deserting ship	—	3	—	3	There is no way of distinguishing between the black, coloured, and white further than has been done.
Refusing to work	—	1	2	—	
Breach of contract	8	—	10	11	
Drunkenness	—	9	4	—	
Larceny, Petty	21	—	39	—	
Other offences	3	—	14	—	Abusive words, &c. &c. are included in other offences.
Debt under £1	1	—	17	—	
„ 2	—	—	12	—	
„ 3	—	—	7	—	
„ 5	—	—	10	—	
„ 10	—	—	4	—	
„ 20	—	—	—	—	There are many amounts above 20*l.*
Total	73	13	134	14	

Enclosure 8 in No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR of ST. VINCENT.

(No. 390.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbadoes, May 17, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 52, of the 2d instant, with the "Blue Book" of St. Vincent for 1854.

The condition of the colony, as described in your Report, is discouraging, and your remarks and suggestions being for the most part a recapitulation of our previous correspondence on the subjects referred to, I will briefly allude to them in the order in which they occur.

On the subject of the finances of the colony I have already fully expressed my concurrence in your opinion of the defective system which has prevailed in St. Vincent, and generally in all the West India colonies.

In the time of slavery, and while the legislative bodies were composed of the leading and most influential proprietors who resided on their estates, the system was not ill-adapted to their circumstances; and if, after the abolition of slavery and the departure of so many proprietors, the practice had not been allowed to grow up of raising the revenue by levying duties on commerce in substitution for assessed taxes and local rates, the irregularities of which you justly complain would not have occurred, as greater vigilance would have been exercised by the people over their representatives, and a reform of the system would probably have ensued. No doubt the difficulties which have arisen in St. Vincent are attributable in a great measure to the outbreak of the cholera in the last year, and the expenses entailed by it on the colonies which suffered; but still they are also referable to the defective system under which the finances have been administered, and which your predecessor and yourself have endeavoured to rectify.

As chartered colonies, it has already been explained, that without their concurrence Her Majesty's Government have been reluctant to originate measures involving changes in their constitution, or to interpose by the exercise of the prerogative of the Crown; and the interposition of Parliament has been sought only to the extent of obtaining an Act to authorize the convention of a general legislature, it being considered that if a colonial parliament were to be convened the necessary reforms in the local administration of the several colonies would be readily effected under its auspices, especially if the proprietors, who are generally absent from the colonies, would take part in its proceedings.

The delay, however, in applying to Parliament has rendered it advisable to take immediate steps to remedy some of the most prominent defects, and as the jealousies subsisting between the councils and assemblies have been an obstacle to their amalgamation the proposal to form executive councils from the members of both branches has been recommended to them together with executive committees to control and regulate the finances, and I regret to learn from you, since the date of your Despatch, that this measure, which was adopted by the Assembly of St. Vincent, has been rejected by the Council, but I hope that better success may attend it when again brought forward. It must be remarked, however, that the failure of the measures adopted in the last year for limiting the number of assemblymen to form a house 11 to 9, and for appointing a government organ in the assembly, indicates the little reliance to be placed on local changes in the constitution of these colonies without the aid of more comprehensive measures by which the leading and more influential persons connected with them may be induced to take an active part in their general administration.

In regard to the relief of the finances by means of a loan, you are already aware, from my Circular Despatch of the 23d January last, that Her Majesty's Government have declined to hold out an expectation that such accommodation will be afforded. The necessary reforms must therefore be adopted as in Tobago without such a condition, and as an Act has there been passed for the appointment of a separate executive council, and a stipendiary committee, I hope that these measures will ultimately be adopted in all these colonies, where the payment of the committees for the executive duties devolving on them will prove to be a measure of economy through the improved management of the public finances.

In my earlier communications after your arrival, I impressed on you the importance of preventing irregularities, in so far as it could be done by withholding warrants for the payment of monies where funds had not been provided to meet them, although legislative assistance is required for the complete reform of the financial system.

I cannot omit to notice your transfer to the treasury of certain fees which have long ceased to be received in the other colonies, and I concur in your objection to the payment of public officers by fees.

I regret to observe from the returns to which you refer that the exports of the colony have declined, and that valuable estates are going out of cultivation; results which I apprehend are attributable to local as well as to general causes.

ST. VINCENT.

The reports of your predecessor described the injurious effects arising from improvident management of encumbered estates, but the competition with slave-grown sugars and the high duties levied in the United Kingdom, by checking consumption, have tended also to diminish profits and check the influx of capital.

It only remains for me to notice your remarks upon the state of crime in St. Vincent, and as two of the three persons who were convicted of murder in the last year were European foreigners, and one an ignorant African who had been made their accomplice, I hope that these cases do not indicate a tendency to increase in the higher offences, which are less prevalent in the West Indies than in older and more advanced communities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

P.S.—I have forwarded the "Blue Book" in the form in which it has been received to prevent the delay in having it bound.

(Signed) W. M. G. C.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 33.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, June 11, 1855.
(Received June 29, 1855.)

MY LORD,

No. 53, 4th June 1855.

I HAVE the honour to forward a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of Saint Lucia, containing his Report, with the "Blue Book" for 1854, and in reference to his remark that the Council had rejected his proposal to aid the establishment of a Grammar School in the island, it may facilitate an object of much importance to procure an estimate of the charge for which a competent teacher might be obtained in England, and if your Lordship would authorize the Council to guarantee the charge for a term of three years at the expense of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 16.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor POWER to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 53.)

SIR,

St. Lucia, June 4, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the "Blue Book" of this colony for the year 1854. This financial statement exhibits on the whole a comparatively satisfactory state of affairs.

The event by which the year 1854 will be rendered memorable in the annals of St. Lucia was the appearance here for the first time of Asiatic cholera. The first case occurred in Castries on the 12th June, after which there was not another until about the middle of the following month. It then attacked in succession every town, village, and hamlet in the island. At first the whole community was completely paralyzed, and a panic pervaded all classes of people; but ere it ceased a stranger coming amongst us would not have known that such a fearful disease existed here. Circumstanced as this colony is, without local bodies to afford the slightest assistance, you can readily conceive that the executive government had to encounter difficulties of no ordinary kind. It is but justice, however, to state that the efforts of the local government were ably seconded by the efforts of the medical practitioners, the ministers of religion, and many other persons, who undertook the task of daily visitation, and thus prevented or mitigated a large amount of human suffering.

When the news that cholera had broken out in Barbados reached this island, I lost no time in submitting to the Legislative Council an ordinance to establish a Board of Health. That body was soon actively employed. The streets were cleansed, houses and premises were inspected, and all offensive matter removed. As soon as the disease made its appearance, supplies of medicines, with printed instructions for their use, were distributed amongst the clergy, planters, managers of estates, and other intelligent members of the community.

The benefits resulting from preliminary sanitary measures have been nowhere more strongly exemplified than in Saint Lucia. In the town of Castries, built on a swamp, and partially surrounded by a swamp, with a population of 3,000 souls, the mortality was comparatively trifling, while in the other towns and villages in which the precautionary measures to which I have just alluded were neglected, the ravages of the disease were awful.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The net amount of the general revenue for the year 1853, irrespective of deposit balances, was	12,521	16	4
The net amount of the general revenue for the year 1854, irrespective of deposit balances, was	14,098	12	1½
Showing an increase of in favour of 1854.	£1,576	15	9½

Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The net expenditure for the year 1853	12,449	14	10½
The net expenditure for 1854 was	13,565	1	4½
Showing an excess of over the year 1853.	£1,115	6	6

There has been no increase whatever in the taxation on the year 1854, as compared with the year 1853.

The increase in the revenue appears to have arisen under the following heads:—

	£	*s.*	*d*
Imports	1,229	19	10
Rum tax	1,193	12	9½
Spirit licences	93	0	0
Breaches of tax ordinance	140	12	5
Registrars returns	36	2	9½
	£ 2,693	7	10

From which, however, must be deducted	£	*s.*	*d.*
the amount of export duty on sugar not levied during the past year, amounting to	£ 912 15 11		
And the instalment of the Vieille Ville, not paid in	201 0 0		
	1,113	15	11
	£1,579	15	11

The increase in the item of imports has arisen in consequence of shipments due at the latter end of 1853 not arriving until January 1854, whereby an apparent decrease was shown in 1853 on the same item, and the fact of the fall ships of 1854 arriving out within the year.

The increase in the next important item, the rum tax, must be attributed to the beneficial working of the ordinance for its more efficient collection, on the principle of a moderate excise.

ST. LUCIA.

The increase in the expenditure has arisen in the following items :—

	£	s.	d.
Works and buildings	343	17	3½
Charitable allowances	72	16	4
Provisions for gaol and asylum	233	6	4
Expenses in criminal cases	104	9	6
Printing the laws of the colony	100	0	0
Miscellaneous	282	9	3½
	£1,136	18	9

The first item arose in consequence of the necessity of repairing the government house, and cost 249*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.*, and the purchase and repair of a building for the reception of paupers afflicted with yaws, at the cost of 94*l.*

The 2d, 3d, and 6th items were the consequence of the cholera, when it became necessary to issue many comforts to paupers and prisoners, and a daily ration of bread and butchers' meat. The 4th item increased by reason of some important criminal cases at the assizes, and the fact of the jurors being paid for their attendance at such assizes by the colony, according to the distance they had travelled and the time they remained in attendance.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that the revenue has not only not fallen off but has considerably improved, notwithstanding the awful visitation of cholera. Though the expenditure was greatly increased by it, still we had only to provide a sum of 600*l.*, which, together with the surplus revenue, was sufficient to cover all expenses.

Public Works.

The principal item under this head consists of a sum of 249*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.* expended on the repairs of government house, and of the sum of 94*l.* for the purchase and repair of a building for the reception of paupers afflicted with "yaws."

The government house is an old wooden building which will require a constantly recurring outlay to keep it together.

Legislation.

The principal legislative enactments of the year consisted of an ordinance to provide for the immigration of coolies, and one for establishing a militia in St. Lucia.

With regard to the first it is greatly to be regretted that a delay of a year must occur ere the coolies can leave India, on account of the local government not having made any provision for emigration to St. Lucia and Grenada.

The militia bids fair to be one of the best bodies of the kind in the West Indies. It is composed of persons selected under a certain qualification which ensures a fair amount of respectability.

Education.

During the greater part of the year the schools throughout the island were closed owing to the cholera. The teachers, however, were better employed than when pursuing their ordinary duties. They were engaged in attending the sick in their districts, and I have reason to know that they rendered most important services in this respect. Towards the close of the year I visited every school in the colony, examined the pupils, and distributed prizes. I am unable to speak favourably of the result of the examinations, but this is easily accounted for,—the children had but just begun to return to the schools.

With regard to education this island is in a very anomalous position, for whereas the children of the peasantry have schools within their reach in every part of the island, there is not a single establishment in St. Lucia for educating the children of the upper and middle classes; the consequence is that those parents who can afford it are obliged to send their children to Europe to be educated, while those of small means are compelled to witness the sad spectacle of seeing their little ones grow up in ignorance around them. To remedy this

evil I proposed to the Legislative Council that the local government should establish a grammar school in Castries, and send home for two competent teachers, whose salaries should be guaranteed for a limited term by the local government. The pensions paid by the scholars would, in my opinion, go very far to defray the expenses of such an establishment, but the council showed an unwillingness to entertain the proposition, being apprehensive that the expense would press too heavily on the general revenue.

Agriculture.

I am unable to state that any marked improvement has taken place in the agriculture of St. Lucia during the last year. The clearing of land for ground provisions is steadily progressing, and the working of estates on the Metairie system has lately increased. Should the present low price of sugar continue much longer I am inclined to think that most of the estates will be worked on this system. I cannot say that I regard such a change in a favourable light, because I have observed that those estates on which the above system prevails are badly worked, and all hopes of improvement in the cultivation of the cane and manufacture of sugar would, if it were generally introduced, be long deferred.

Gaols and Prisoners.

It is gratifying to remark that there has been no increase in the amount of crime during the last year. Few crimes of a deep dye are perpetrated in this island; they chiefly consist of petty larcenies and assaults.

The gaol, though considered a good building, does not, I regret, admit of a systematic classification of prisoners and a reformatory discipline. I have been able, however, to remedy the great evil of confining lunatics in the common gaol, by establishing an asylum for them in a separate locality.

General Observations.

Though the cholera produced great afflictions it was not wholly unproductive of good. Concubinage, the master evil of Saint Lucia, has been crushed by it, I trust, for ever. The returns of the stipendiary magistrates give 906 marriages within the year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE POWER

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

ABSTRACT RETURN from Blue Book, 1851-1852-1853-1854.

Revenue.

Year.	Custom Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1851	5,147 17 6½	1,760 9 9½	659 7 2	6,083 11 6½	13,651 6 0½	—	—
1852	5,752 17 6½	1,846 12 10	664 9 8½	4,696 5 5½	12,960 5 6¼	—	691 0 6¼
1853	5,252 3 8	912 15 11	666 14 7	5,690 2 2	12,521 16 4	—	438 9 2¼
1854	6,482 3 8		744 2 10	6,872 5 9½	14,098 12 1½	1,576 15 9½	

The increase has been principally under the head of Imports and Rum duties, counterbalanced to some extent by the abolition of the export duty on sugar, rum, and molasses.

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Poor.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£. s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	3,661 13 6½	2,686 4 7½	1,244 16 3½	240 8 5½	850 10 0	496 3 8	1,952 15 7	11,132 12 2	
1852	3,138 0 6	2,850 1 10	1,267 17 2½	335 6 5½	942 8 0	615 7 2¾	2,540 2 2¾	11,689 3 5½	556 11 3½
1853	3,659 17 10½	2,685 17 1	1,378 4 6½	307 14 3	943 8 0	605 3 0½	2,889 10 1	12,449 14 10½	760 11 5
1854	3,641 0 6	3,116 2 4	1,396 4 11	436 18 6	987 4 0	782 1 5½	3,205 9 8	13,565 1 4½	1,115 6 6

The increase is to be accounted for in the expenditure of nearly 400*l.* for the repairs of Government House, and the purchase and fitting up of a house to be used as an hospital for persons afflicted with the "Yaws;" also an increased amount of drawbacks of duties and the high price of provisions for the Gaol and Asylum for the Poor, together with the unavoidable outlay consequent on the prevalence of cholera.

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Education.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	853 6 1½	—	838 1 5	1,691 7 6
1852	1,105 0 0	489 11 6	1,167 9 10	2,762 1 4
1853	1,070 18 9½	3,126 4 11½	1,281 5 8	5,478 9 5
1854	1,156 18 7	292 10 2	1,293 9 11	2,742 18 8

The expenditure under the head of Education is exclusive of 470*l.* contributed by the Mico Trust. The decrease under the item of Roads is owing to the exhaustion of the Imperial Loan, and little having been done towards the repairs of the public roads in consequence of cholera. The miscellaneous expenditure consists of 1,218*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* expended by the Corporation of Castries, and 75*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* of the revenue raised by a House Tax for local purposes of sanitary improvement.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	1,816 18 9	13,317 16 5	15,134 15 2
1852	1,749 19 0	12,705 19 7	14,455 18 0
1853	1,775 4 4	13,033 16 2	14,809 0 6
1854	1,754 10 4	14,768 4 7	16,522 14 11

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1851	11,763	12,527	24,290	The last Census was taken in June 1851, when the population was returned as 24,185. It had increased to 25,007, and has now decreased to 24,123, consequent on deaths by cholera, which prevailed in all parts of the island during the last six months of 1854.
1852	11,749	12,601	24,350	
1853	12,034	12,973	25,007	
1854	11,511	12,612	24,123	

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1851	Unknown.	4,077	
1842	„	4,674	
1853	„	6,103½	
1854	„	4,628	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.
1851	Unknown - -	Estimated at 5,208*l.*
1852	Ditto - -	Estimated at 4,166*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*
1853	Estimated at 10,500*l.*	Estimated at 4,166*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*
1854	Estimated at 10,600*l.*	Estimated at 4,180*l.*

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Per Cent. on Population.	Remarks.
1851	3	10	5,932	7,650	31·63/00	A chapel situated in a remote part of the second district has not been returned as in use this year. The estimated attendance is vague and uncertain.
1852	3	10	5,982	8,000	33·7 00	
1853	3	10	6,575	8,455	33·81/00	
1854	3	9	5,550	7,550	31·28/00	

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total Number of Scholars.	Per Cent. on Population.	Remarks.
1851	10	5	904	3·73/00	The schools classed in the first column are so placed merely to distinguish them from column two, which refers to schools having teachers of the Roman Catholic Church, the former being schools established by the Board of Education: six are Sunday Schools for the instruction of African immigrants.
1852	11	9	1,117	4·61/00	
1853	20	2	1,393	5·16/00	
1854	18	4	1,243	5·14/00	

Value in Sterling.

	Imports.				Exports.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1851	22,179 3 7	29,612 4 9	17,089 17 7	68,881 5 11	45,699 6 6	8,005 18 11	1,180 0 0	54,815 5 5
1852	38,508 16 8	25,800 10 8	16,691 15 3	81,002 2 7	46,553 9 8	7,037 18 8	3,619 2 8	57,210 11 0
1853	26,001 2 8	27,350 5 9	19,298 17 11	72,650 6 4	46,438 9 8	7,930 14 7	2,635 8 7	57,204 12 10
1854	41,966 8 9	27,879 2 11	26,432 19 4	96,278 11 0	46,004 16 5	6,668 1 0	3,163 11 3	55,836 8 8

Shipping.

Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
1851	2,810	5,364	1,851	10,025	3,548	4,287	2,015	9,850
1852	3,178	4,870	3,109	11,157	3,930	4,830	2,471	11,231
1853	2,226	4,333	3,190	9,749	3,799	4,125	2,352	10,276
1854	3,525	5,743	3,205	12,471	3,434	2,468	5,460	11,362

ST. LUCIA.

Return of Criminal and other Prisoners.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Debtors.
1851	239	69	3	5	316			
1852	221	39	3	2	265		51	
1853	149	55	2		206		59	
1854	178	21	2		201		5	

Government Office,
Saint Lucia.

J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 2 in No. 16.

ncl. 2 in No. 16.

REPORT of the PAVILION COMMITTEE on condition of the Building and Public Furniture contained therein, pursuant to Instructions in the Secretary of State's Despatch, Downing Street, 9th August 1854.

The Pavilion is a wooden building, measuring 80 feet by 62 feet on one flat, situated about 400 feet above the sea, on the southern side of the harbour of Castries, and is divided into a drawing room, a dining room, five bedrooms, a pantry, a gallery, and two porticoes.

The building is in very good repair, and was newly painted and papered in the early part of last year, as will be seen on reference to the Committee's Report hereunto attached, at a cost of 249*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.* From the perishable nature of wooden buildings in this country the repairs have cost large sums at short intervals, the amounts paid for repairs during the last seven years being nearly 1,300*l.*

st May 1854.

An inventory of the furniture is annexed, and we beg to report it as being in good condition, although very antiquated in appearance, it having been purchased, we believe, in the year 1819, when the building itself was completed.

9th April 1855.

Castries, St. Lucia, April 30, 1855. (Signed) JAMES MACFARLANE, M.C.
J. V. LEUGER, M. C.
R. G. M'HUGH, H. M.T.
in charge of Works and Buildings.

REPORT of the Committee appointed at a Meeting of the Honourable Board of Legislative Council, on the first day of September 1853, for effecting the Repairs of the Pavilion.

Your Committee beg to report to your Honourable Board that the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds sterling voted has been expended by your Committee in the repairs of the Pavilion; that in deference to the discussion which took place at your Honourable Board your Committee in the first instance took measures to ensure the building being watertight; and upon a close examination of the roof it was found necessary to renew a great portion of the shingling, and many of the boards which were fast becoming rotten. In this upwards of ten thousand shingles were used, and it was a portion of work not calculated on when your Committee made their Report of the 1st Sept. 1853.

Your Committee's attention was next given to the exterior of the building, to which all repairs were made, and the entire thoroughly painted; the interior of the building underwent all necessary repair, and the whole received two coats of paint; the suite of rooms, galleries, &c. were newly tapestried, and the out-offices were repaired and painted.

Your Committee are unable to detail the repairs that have been effected, but the whole of the work having been conducted under the immediate superintendence of Her Majesty's Treasurer without professional assistance, he had such necessary repairs effected as presented themselves in detail, and your Committee conscientiously believe that everything has been done in a complete and economical manner.

A portion of the flooring at the southern entry of the building is uneven from the displacement of the beams, but as the defect is not glaringly perceptible, and the repair would have involved the necessity of raising all that portion of the flooring of the pavilion, your Committee deemed it better to allow it to remain as it is.

Your Committee therefore report to your Honourable Board that the pavilion has been thoroughly repaired, painted, and papered; that having confined themselves within

the limit of the vote of your Honourable Board, and from the unexpected outlay which was found advisable on the roof, they have been unable to extend the repairs to the stables, which require new shingling, some trifling repairs to the doors, and painting.

Castries, May 31, 1854. (Signed) JOHN THOMAS, M.C.
J. P. LEUGER, M.C.
R. G. M'HUGH, H.M.T.

Enclosure 3 in No. 16.

Encl. 3 in No. 16

INVENTORY of the Furniture, the Property of the Colony in the Pavilion.

Drawing Room.

Two sofas.
Four card tables.
Two sofa tables.
Seventeen drawing-room chairs.
One bronze three-light chandelier.

Dining Room.

One large sideboard.
Two small ditto.
One telescope table and leaves.
One side table.
Twenty-three dining-room chairs.
One cellaret.

Office and Gallery.

One ottoman.
Two small tables.
Two easy chairs.
One writing table.
Two office tables.
Eleven chairs.
One small press.
One large armoir.

First Bedroom.

One bedstead and mattress and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One armoir.

Second Bedroom.

One bedstead, mattress and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One dressing table.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One looking glass.

Third Bedroom.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
One dressing table.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One commode.
One looking glass.

Fourth Bedroom.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One looking glass.
One dressing table.
One common table.
Two bidets.

Miscellanea.

One chest of drawers.
One washhand stand.
One ewer, basin, and chamber.
One dressing table.
One looking glass.
One commode.

Sundries.

One eight-day clock.
Sixteen common chairs (damaged).
Twenty barrel shades.
Eight side shades.
Three iron bedsteads.
Three deal tables.
One small mattress.
Five screens.

Government House, Saint Lucia,
April 30, 1855.

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH,
Her Majesty's Treasurer at
St. Lucia, in charge of Works and Buildings.

(True Copy.)
J. V. DRYSDALE, Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 4 in No. 16.

Encl. 4 in No.

SIR, Castries, St. Lucia, Feb. 1, 1855.

IN compliance with the instructions, I have the honour to make my report as Inspector of Prisons in this island for the past year.

The royal gaol of Castries is the only prison in the island. It is a well-built, commodious, and well-ventilated edifice in masonry, and measures 75 feet in length by 36 feet in width, with an open gallery along the front of nine feet wide. The gaol is surrounded on three sides by high walls, and on the fourth by a wall of four feet

ST. LUCIA.

surmounted by a strong iron railing There are four separate yards within the walls for exercise, &c. The outbuildings consist of an hospital, a house and kitchen for the gaoler, a storeroom attached to the kitchen, a privy, and a building containing two large airy cells for the confinement of dangerous lunatics. There is a small well in the main or front yard of the gaol, but it is not now made use of, as there is also in the same yard a large open reservoir, into and out of which there is continually flowing a copious supply of excellent water. The gaol is at present in good repair, with the exception of the roof of the gallery, which is very leaky in some parts, and requires immediate attention. The iron bars in almost the whole of the windows require to be renewed, being almost entirely eaten through with rust, many being corroded away to the size of a quarter of an inch at the bottoms where they enter the sills.

I must reiterate the recommendation in my last report that the gallery in front of the gaol be jalousied in, as the afternoon sun strikes with such intense heat on that side as to render parties confined there very uncomfortable, and I have myself on several occasions found prisoners in that part of the building without their shirts or trousers having taken off either the one or the other in consequence of the great heat.

I would also recommend that a small kitchen be built for the use of the prisoners as at present they have no place whatever where they can get their rations cooked, except on two or three stones in the open air, and the consequence is that in wet weather their provisions can hardly be cooked at all.

It appears to me that were an open shed thrown over the reservoir it would keep the water continually cool, which it often is not in the middle of the day, and render it more wholesome for the prisoners.

It is very desirable that the masonwork which separates the passage leading to the garret and the wards on the upper story be removed, and a door put up instead, as it would render the day room at the north end of the prison available as a ward, which, in fact, it really is, but cannot be made use of as such in consequence of there being no communication at present with the other wards except through it.

The gaol is capable of containing 130 prisoners, with complete separation of the sexes ; 201 persons were confined during the course of the year, 180 males and 21 females.

There are nine wards on the upper floor of the gaol, measuring sixteen feet by thirteen feet ; of these, two are day rooms, and one is occupied by the turnkey. The attic is divided into three large rooms, where the female prisoners are kept. There are ten cells on the ground floor, which are commodious, clean, and well ventilated.

Prisoners under sentence receive two suits of clothes per annum, which is too small an allowance, as when working outside they are very liable to get wet, be brought back to prison and locked up so, as they very often have not a second suit to put on. No bedding is supplied ; the prisoners in the cells on the ground floor—which is paved with brick, and which I consider unhealthy, as the bricks are hardly ever free from humidity, taking a long time to dry after having been scoured—have raised trestles on which they sleep; those on the upper wards sleep on the floor. The diet consists of half a pound of salt fish and half a pot of farine manioc, or its equivalent of bread.

Debtors receive an alimentary allowance from the incarcerating creditor.

The hours of labour of the penal gang are from six to nine o'clock, and from ten to five p.m. The hours within the gaol walls are from six to ten a.m., and from two to six p.m. The hours allotted for exercise are for male prisoners, from ten to twelve, and for females, from twelve to two o'clock.

The work of the prisoners under sentence of hard labour, and who work outside the gaol, is not fixed ; at one time they are employed in repairing portions of the public roads near Castries, at another in digging gravel for the filling up of the swampy parts of the town, and at others in clearing away and keeping in order the lands of Government House, &c. Those who work within the prison walls are employed in breaking stone.

Tradesmen, such as carpenters, masons, and tailors, are generally employed at their respective crafts during the same hours as the other prisoners.

The female prisoners are employed in cleaning the prison, and the asylum for the poor, and in making clothes for the other prisoners.

Prisoners under criminal sentence are not allowed to receive parcels or letters until they have been inspected by the keeper; and in case of any improper communication being attempted to be made, the keeper is empowered to withhold such parcel or letter until he receives instructions of the provost marshal, who may dispose of them as he deems advisable ; they can receive no visits from their friends or relations, until after the expiration of three months from their committal, and then only in every succeeding three months, except in cases of sickness and under special circumstances. No extra food is allowed without a written order to that effect by the surgeon or provost marshal.

There is no chapel in the prison, nor any suitable apartment for the performance of divine service. The prisoners assemble under the inspection of the officers of the prison on Sundays in one of the day rooms for receiving instruction and saying prayers, when the best separation that the size of the apartment will permit is maintained among them.

The surgeon visits the gaol daily, and also attends whenever called by the keeper ; he keeps a journal in which is inserted the name of each sick prisoner, with the nature of the disease, the treatment or medicines prescribed, and the result of the case. An hospital is attached to the prison with a separate yard for air and exercise.

132 cases are reported as having been taken into hospital during the year, out of which four were fatal; three of cholera, and one from dysentery. The most prevalent diseases were fever, ulcers, diarrhœa, cholorine, and dry cholic. There were but six cases of cholera, three of which were fatal, and this very small number must be attributed to the very judicious and timely steps taken by his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in releasing a large number of the prisoners unconditionally on the breaking out of the epidemic in the vicinity of the gaol. As the epidemic increased five of the prisoners volunteered, on promise of a pardon at the end of the disease, to bury the dead at Soufriere, and they were sent down to the magistrate there; the rest of the prisoners, with the exception of the four insane persons and one debtor, were then removed to Vieille Ville, (some of then having volunteered to bury the dead,) which was healthy, and which was in the proximity of the land which had been cleared for a cemetery.

They remained at Vieille Ville from 4th August to the 27th November, when they returned, not one of them having died, although they had all been several times attacked with diarrhœa. The rations of the prisoners whilst at Vieille Ville were doubled, and they were also allowed a small quantity of spirits, as many of them were up day and night interring corpses; they also had a blanket each served out to them.

There were four insane persons, three women and one man, in confinement during the year, to find sureties to keep the peace; two were confined in the building which was erected for the lunatics, and the other two in the body of the gaol. One of the women was released as cured in the end of December.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. Jennings,
Special Justice, 2d District, and
Inspector of Prisons.

ANTIGUA.

No. 17.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Mackintosh to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 33.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 22, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith enclosed, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of this island for 1854.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The return under each of these heads, compared with the corresponding ones of the previous year, will be found to be a satisfactory one. In the first there has been an increase of 2,160*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*; in the second, a decrease (exclusive of a sum of 779*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.* applied in discharge of obligations incurred in 1853) of 4,016*l.* 15*s.* 0¾*d.*

3. The accession to the revenue has been caused almost entirely by an increased productiveness in the import and tonnage duties, by the amounts respectively of 1,520*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.* and 472*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* Such a proof of the improvement in the import trade, in the face of the present reduced price of the staple product of the island, will, probably, be considered by your Lordship to be a fact no less satisfactory than remarkable. It goes far to support an opinion which obtains pretty generally among the better informed of the commercial community here, that the general trade of the island is settling down upon a more solid and reliable basis than that which has supported it for the last few years.

4. It ought not to be overlooked, in scanning these annual statements, that it is the practice, though one perhaps open to sound objection, to merge in the general accounts of the island the receipts and payments due in respect of the savings bank deposits and of the Earthquake Loan. And it is in these incidental heads of charge that the decreased expenditure will be found to have occurred; the amount of deposits withdrawn in 1854 being less than that in 1853 by 1,236*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*; and the late relaxation in the terms of the repayment of the loan having operated to the extent of relieving the local treasury of what otherwise, for the last year, would have been a charge of 2,323*l.*

Local Revenues.

5. Since the establishment in 1852 of a General Poor-house for the use of the whole island, the produce of the parochial rates have been applied almost exclusively to the payment of the stipends of the clergy, the maintenance of the fabrics of the churches, and certain small outgoings connected with the celebration of divine worship.

Public Debt.

6. The chief part of the debt for which the public is responsible consisted on the 31st of December last of a sum of 65,000*l.*, being the unliquidated residue of the advance made in 1844 to the island, under the sanction of Parliament, of 100,000*l.* towards remedying the destructive consequences of the earthquake of the preceding year. The reductions which have been lately conceded by Her Majesty's Government of the amount of the annual instalments of repayment of the principal, from one tenth to one twentieth, and of the interest from a rate of 5 to one of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per centum, have rendered this obligation a comparatively light and easily manageable one.

7. There are also in the hands of parties resident within the island debentures to the amount of 6,260*l.*, which, to meet a temporary emergency, were issued in 1847 by the Local Treasury. The Act which sanctioned this loan also provided, through the imposition of certain specified taxes, for its redemption; but this provision has not as yet been put in force, the creditors tacitly assenting to the postponement of their claims. At a time when the repayment to the Imperial Treasury of the annual instalments of the Earthquake Loan were about to recommence, it was perhaps as well that no additional pressure should have been laid on the springs of production; but inasmuch as these debentures are bearing an interest of 6 per centum, it will doubtless be one of the first application that will be made of any future surplus revenue to pay them off.

Public Works.

8. With the exception of the ordinary repair of the roads and public buildings, which, with the exclusion of some of the country churches, may be pronounced to be in a satisfactory condition, there has been nothing done within the year of a character to justify its being entered under this head.

Legislation.

9. Neither under this head is there much to specify as the results of the legislative labours of a whole year. A measure for promoting the public health, and another for regulating the observance of quarantine, are, I must confess, all that can be pointed to as enactments of an original kind. For the residue, we have been for the most part content with the continuation of arrangements as severally about to be determined with the expiration of the temporary Acts under which they took effect. It is well that at an early period of the social and financial revolution, out of which it may be hoped these islands are at last emerging, Antigua took some few vigorous steps towards the improvement of her institutions, and the amendment of her laws; for it cannot be denied that few symptoms of similar energy have of late been discoverable in the proceedings of the Council or of the Assembly. Even the prevalence in an adjacent island of epidemic cholera, in a peculiar virulent form, failed in eliciting from these bodies any definitive decision on a question which was in agitation throughout the whole of the past year, involving a selection of the most eligible sites for an extra-urban cemetery for the city of St. John.

Population.

10. The only returns at present obtainable, bearing immediately on the numerical strength of the population, are those of baptisms and burials. A proposal to enforce a general registration of births and deaths failed in its passage through the Assembly at the beginning of the year. If the above-mentioned returns, which have shown on an average of the last six years an increasing ratio of deaths, as compared with baptisms, were to be exclusively

relied on, it would follow that our population is actually on the decline. But such an inference, repugnant as it would be to all analogies established in respect of races enjoying conditions of existence equally favourable with those of the negro of these islands, is incompatible with what is actually presented to the eye of a discriminating observer from every side of us. That there are not annually, as I fear must be admitted to be the case, large accessions from natural causes to the number of the labouring class, is of itself a sufficient source of concern, the origin of which is no doubt to be found in the disinclination, developed more or less according to the degree in which the peasantry are left to their own guidance, to provide medical attendance for themselves and their families. It was elicited through a late inquiry, conducted with some care by the Board of Health, into the hygenic state of the island, that of the whole labouring population, amounting probably to about 31,000, not more than 8,056 are provided either by themselves or their employers with regular medical aid. Of the 160 estates still in a state of either complete or partial cultivation, on 79 only is such aid now found as an article in the contract between the master and servant. Before emancipation, the yearly cost under this head for the whole island, embracing, as at that time it probably did, about 200 estates, amounted, according to the lowest estimate, to 5,300*l.*

11. A further enhancement of the general rate of mortality may safely be asserted to have been the result of the predilection which of late years the peasantry have manifested for the crowded and ill-ventilated "free villages" as residences in preference to the cottages scattered at large over the several estates which had previously been their homes. However sound may have been the principles which, in connexion with the then existing state of public sentiment, presided over the original establishment of these "free villages,"—the number of which has now risen to 86,—their increase has been probably detrimental to the general health at least of the island.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

12. It will be observed that the amount returned as the deposit in the savings bank (2,283*l.* 2*s.*) if spread over the whole population (37,136) would give a proportional sum for each poll of 1*s.* 2¾*d.*; and that the number of persons enrolled as members of friendly societies bears to the same total of population the centesimal proportion of 17·7.

Education.

13. The whole number of children attending the day schools of all denominations, including that of the Mico Charity, is 2,989, giving on the population 8·04 per cent. This proportion is not by any means a satisfactory one. It may be said, however, that of late there has been a tendency towards an increase of it.

14. The training school known as "Cedar Hall," supported by the United Brethren for the purpose of supplying this and the neighbouring islands with native teachers, continues to bid fair to fulfil its object. Being yet little more than in its infancy more than this cannot at present be safely said of it. The boys, about twenty-five in number, besides being clothed by the mission, are boarded and lodged on the premises, which are commodious. The healthy principle of combining with indoor study manual labour at stated intervals in the open air is not lost sight of in the arrangements of this meritorious little establishment.

15. It were much to be wished for a community of the social conditions of ours that a general scheme for managing all these schools by means of some central authority should be adopted, and opportunities for urging such a plan on the Council and Assembly have been made available, but financial considerations, not unallied probably with certain sectarian jealousies, have hitherto stood in the way of such a step. Under the provisions of a local Act of old standing the United Brethren alone are in the receipt of a yearly allowance of 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for educational purposes.

ANTIGUA.

Imports and Exports.

16. The returns under both these heads, as compared with the corresponding ones of the previous year, are, as expressed in values, eminently satisfactory :—

	Imports.	Exports.
1853 - -	£140,097 8 11	- - 195,686 18 0
1854 - -	171,076 7 0	- - 215,700 10 0
	Increase, £30,978 18 1	Increase, 20,013 12 0

This test of reported value must in a great degree—more especially as regards a statement made from hence referring to exports—be a conjectural one ; but the above-cited figures are supported by the return of the packages of sugar and molasses actually shipped, rendered, according to the usual mode of calculation, into their equivalent weights, which gives for 1854, 12,012 tons, the same calculation having given for 1853, 11,943.

17. The distillation of rum had not been a matter to which the planters of this island had of late years given much of their attention up to the period towards the close of 1854, when a sudden demand for this article occurred.

18. During the last year some shipments on a small scale—principally from Barbuda—were made to the United Kingdom of prepared vegetable fibres, opening the way, it can scarcely be doubted, for a trade in what is destined in no distant day to be classed among the staple products of these islands.

Agriculture, &c.

19. There appears to me nothing to remark as to the first of these heads, unless it be to note the continuance of the finished cultivation which delights the eye of the beholder from any of the eminences which are scattered throughout the island. The number of small holdings on which the peasantry grow canes, to be ground on mutually accommodating terms at some neighbouring mill, is on the increase. Arrangements have even been made in one or two instances in the course of the past year for the cultivation of large portions—if not the whole—of an estate on the share system.

20. Almost the whole of the sugar produced in Antigua is of that quality which finds its way to the refineries at home. This fact, in conjunction with the comparatively small size of the estates in this island, has occasioned less capital to be expended in the evaporating appliances connected with the manufacture of the staple crop than has been the case in the larger dependencies of the Crown in these seas. A machine for drying the crystals on the centrifugal principle, which a few years ago obtained much favour in the eyes of the planters, has again fallen into disuse for the same reason, it having appeared that the loss of weight consequent on the drying process was not compensated, in regard to the total return, by the additional quantity of the molasses which had been extracted. Two cases may be noted in which some of the latest improvements in machinery have been adapted to cane mills, but in both were the interested parties opulent absentees.

Gaol, Prisoners, &c.

21. It does not appear from the gaol returns that there is any considerable increase of crime, taken collectively, during the past year in comparison with the preceding one. Some of the offences, however, (in respect of which two instances of capital convictions might be specified,) were of a more aggravated character than is usually found among our population. The convictions for obeah, I regret to have to remark, are decidedly on the increase, in spite of the enhanced punishment, including whipping, which by a late law has been awarded to this crime. I much fear that the only effect of the enactment in question has been to throw round the practice of this art a seeming mystery, and to recognise in it an importance which plays into the hands of the rogues who are engaged in it ; and I am glad to perceive that an inclination is astir to review the policy of its provisions.

Charitable Institutions.

22. The existing Charitable Institutions have not heretofore been conducted on any very accurately defined principles. In the year 1828 certain charitably-

disposed parties associated themselves under the name of the "Daily Meal Society," for the purpose, as the name implies, of relieving cases of urgent casual distress. To the premises of the society were subsequently consigned, at the expense of the parish on which they were chargeable, all who were treated as indoor paupers, and it subsequently undertook, in addition, in a separate building, the somewhat incongruous charge of all persons affected with leprosy. As long as money was plentiful and voluntary subscribers numerous, it perhaps did not much matter through what channel their relief found its way to its objects; but with the impaired resources of individuals came calls upon the Legislature for pecuniary aid to an extent which, as for the last year, has largely exceeded the amount of private subscriptions. On the establishment, in 1852, of a poor-house for the use of the whole island, all the indoor paupers were gradually removed to it by the newly-appointed guardians of the poor from the society's infirmary; and towards the end of the last year an intimation was given to the managing committee of the latter that a similar step would be taken in regard to the paupers under medical treatment who had been allowed in the interval to continue in it. The withdrawal from the infirmary of this latter class has, at the date at which I am writing, actually taken place; and a further arrangement has been propounded, and will I have no doubt be carried into effect, for transferring the charge of the lazaretto also to the guardians. These changes bid fair, I think, to form a manifest improvement in the administration of each establishment. The charges which by their nature are proper to be borne by the community will then be disbursed by a public board, while the collective charity of individuals will find an appropriate rallying point in the principle of voluntary beneficence, which, it is hoped, will meet all the wants of the infirmary.

23. There is also in the city of St. John an asylum, managed for the most part by ladies who are members of the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion, and supported by voluntary contributions, for the maintenance and education of female orphans, to the number of about twelve.

24. During the course of the last year all that remained of the establishments which had before been maintained here at the expense of the Imperial Treasury—the detachment of Her Majesty's troops furnishing the garrison, the functions of the Comptroller of the Imperial Customs, and those also of the single stipendiary justice, has been withdrawn, and the island may in strictness now be said for the first time to be left in pursuing its future career to its own unaided resources. Up to the present time, owing to the large proportion of property which is still in the hands of the old island families resident within the United Kingdom, but exercising through their agents preponderating influence in our local councils, Antigua has probably undergone less change in her social and economical circumstances than any other island of the Caribbean group. Nor, while the existing somewhat complicated and cumbrous machinery for the government of this small community, by the operation of which the Council and Assembly are in their deliberations mutually isolated, and are both detached from all immediately directing influence on the part of the executive officer, shall exist, does it seem likely that she will, for at least some time to come, accommodate herself with much readiness to the reduced fortunes which have come upon the West Indies generally. In the meantime she has a soil the fertility of which it is not apparently within the power of any shortcomings of man to injure, legislative bodies abundantly satisfied with their own convictions of her interests, and a thriving and contented population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 18.

No. 18.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General MACKINTOSH to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 34.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 22, 1855.
(Received June 16, 1855.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of Montserrat for the year 1854, together with a copy of the Despatch in which it has been forwarded to me by the late President administering the government.

The fulness of this paper, especially in regard to the present financial condition of the island, appears to me to dispense with the necessity on my part of any additional remark.

The proposal which (paragraph 17) Mr. Robinson has propounded for the relief of the planting interest, that a terminable annuity based on the principle of those granted under the provisions of the Drainage Acts of the United Kingdom, liquidating at a given uniform amount simultaneously the capital and interest of the Earthquake Loan, should be substituted for the arrangement for its repayment which has lately been sanctioned by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, has been already, as I need perhaps scarcely remind your Lordship, brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Government in my Despatch, Antigua, No. 13, of 12th February 1853. Of this fact, Mr. Robinson was doubtless unaware when he penned his own recommendation. It would, of course, be to myself a source of only enhanced satisfaction to learn that their Lordships had been induced by the present account of the meritorious struggle which is going on in Montserrat with adverse circumstances to consent to the further relief of the planters which has been suggested on the present occasion.

No. 27. Oct. 10, 1854.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 18.

No. 18.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Mr. President ROBINSON to Governor General MACKINTOSH.

(No. 17.)

SIR,

Montserrat, February 27, 1855.

Blu
In Duplicate.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency the "Blue Book" of Montserrat for the year 1854, prepared in duplicate, and I will now proceed to offer such explanatory observations thereon as appears to me to be essentially necessary for arriving at a more clear and accurate comprehension of the general condition and prospects of this colony than can, I conceive, be obtained from a simple perusal of the schedules comprised in this return.

2. It has invariably been the custom here, in compiling the return for the "Blue Book" of the abstract of the "Net Revenue and Expenditure" for each year, to insert under the head of "Expenditure" only such payments as have been actually made out of the Public Treasury during that period. And it appears to have been considered essential in the preparation of these returns, that the excess of revenue over expenditure, as shown at the close of the abstract, should always correspond with the exact cash balance in the public chest on the last day of each year; and it is not clear to me that the treasurer, upon whom devolves the duty of preparing these returns, can take cognizance of debts of which he is in no way officially acquainted, or enter under the head of "Expenditure" any items but such as appears by his books to have been paid during the period under review; but it will be obvious, in a colony such as Montserrat, which for a number of years has always been in debt,—where the salaries of the public officers, and the expenses incurred for the support of the public institutions, are frequently in arrear for nine and twelve months, and often

for a far longer period,—where taxes are imposed, not in anticipation, but after the liabilities have actually accrued,—that such a return as the one contained in the Blue Book becomes little more than a statement of the receipts and disbursements in the treasurer's office, and can give but a very imperfect idea as to the actual financial condition of the colony, or the cost incurred during the year for the fixed establishment and the support of the public institutions. Thus, for example, it would appear from an examination of the Montserrat Blue Book for 1853, that the revenue of that year exceeded the expenditure, and that a balance of 598*l.* 4*s.* 2¼*d.* existed to the credit of the island on the 31st December 1853; whereas, on the contrary, as will be seem by the following statement, the real financial condition of the colony at that date was such that the year 1854 commenced with liabilities unprovided for to the amount of 852*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.* sterling.

Liabilities on the 31st December 1853.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
Amount due to public officer's salaries to 31st December 1853	343	13	0
Amount due to public institutions, such as jail, poor lunatics, to 31st December 1853	26	17	0
Amount due for incidental and miscellaneous services to 31st December 1853	33	10	0
Arrears of interest on "Earthquake Loan" due to Her Majesty's Government for the year ended 1st August 1853	1,047	10	3
Total liabilities on 31st December 1853	1,450	10	3

Assets on the 31st December 1853.

Cr.	£	s.	d.
Cash in public chest on 31st December 1853	598	4	2½
Arrears of revenue uncollected and in course of collection on 31st December 1853	Nil.		
Total assets	598	4	2½
Excess of liabilities over assets on 31st December 1853	852	6	0½
	1,450	10	3

3. With the view, therefore, of explaining more precisely the financial condition of the colony during and at the close of the past year, I have caused to be inserted in the Blue Book, now transmitted, at the conclusion of the abstract of "Net Revenue and Expenditure," an account setting forth the assets and liabilities on 31st December 1854. This statement exhibits the following results.

Liabilities on the 31st December 1854.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
Amount due to public officers to 31st December 1854, being six months' salaries	663	13	6
Amount due for support of public institutions to 31st December 1854 (since paid in full)	146	6	3
Amount due for miscellaneous and incidental expenses to 31st December 1854 (since paid)	89	12	10
Total liabilities to 31st December 1854	899	12	7

Assets on the 31st December 1854.

Cr.	£	s.	d.
Amount of cash in public chest on 31st December 1854	111	11	5
Amount of arrears of revenue in hands of Provost Marshal for collection (since recovered)	116	13	7½
Amount in hands of Local Boards	56	7	7
Total assets	284	12	7½
Excess of liabilities over assets	614	19	11½
	899	12	7

While, therefore, a comparison of the abstract of revenue and expenditure in the Blue Books for 1853 and 1854 would lead to the conclusion that the finances of the colony, at the close of the former year, were in a better condition by nearly 500*l.* sterling than at the termination of the past year, the reverse is really the case, as will be seen by the foregoing statements; from which it appears that the liabilities unprovided for on the 31st December 1853 were 852*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.*, while the liabilities unprovided for on the 31st December 1854 amounted but to 614*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.*, showing an improvement in favour of

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1854 of 237*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* And when it is borne in mind that this result has been achieved whilst several taxes which were in force for part of the year 1853 have been abolished, and the property tax levied in 1854 diminished by 25 per cent., as compared with a similar impost raised in 1853 and that, notwithstanding these reduced sources of income, the colony has not only paid off all arrears of interest due to Her Majesty's Government up to the last gale day for the earthquake loan, but has also reduced the debt by the payment of the first instalment of one twentieth of the principal of the loan, it must be admitted that although the financial condition of the island is not wholly satisfactory, still as compared with previous years there are happily many encouraging circumstances which afford grounds for congratulation and thankfulness.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The decrease in the revenue of 1854, as compared with that of 1853, amounts, according to the return in the Blue Book, to 755*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, being respectively 3,456*l.* 13*s.* 2½*d.*, and 2,701*l.* 2*s.* 6¼*d.*; but this is to be accounted for by the abolition of the taxes on rum and cattle, by the reduction of 25 per cent. on the property tax, and the abolition of several other small sources of revenue, and in consequence of there being arrears of revenue uncollected on the 31st December 1854, although recovered and made available within a few days from that date. I also find that in the Blue Book for 1853 the balance in hand at the commencement of that year, and several other items, were included in the account of revenue received during the year 1853, although strictly they should not have been entered in that return.

5. The expenditure by the same return appears to have been increased from 2,858*l.* 9*s.* 0½*d.* in 1853 to 3,187*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* in 1854; but this will be explained by the fact that although there were liabilities unpaid on the 31st December 1853 amounting to 1,450*l.* there was a cash balance in the Public Treasury on that day of 598*l.*, and this sum being disbursed in 1854 swells the expenditure of that year. I could, if necessary, multiply examples as to the difficulty of arriving at any clear understanding of the financial condition of the colony from these returns, when the receipts of one year are not disbursed until the next, whilst liabilities incurred the previous year remain unpaid, and appear in the expenditure of subsequent years, and the little value which in consequence can be placed upon statistical comparisons deduced therefrom, as to the relative condition of the colony during successive years; but the defective nature of these returns must be sufficiently evident from the instances which I have already deduced; and I only allude to the subject for the purpose of explaining any apparent discrepancy between the statements in my report and the returns contained in the columns of the Blue Book.

6. It is by no means easy to arrive at any accurate information as to the exact cost of the "establishment" and public institutions separately for each of the past years, in consequence of the very imperfect and irregular manner in which the accounts of the Island Treasury were kept by the late Treasurer; the payments made having been simply entered in the Treasury books, without specifying either the services or the period during which they were performed, and the vouchers then destroyed. But a clearer insight into the transactions of the year 1854 may be gathered from the following statement, which I annex, and which has been prepared with as much accuracy as possible, considering all the circumstances, and which, omitting fractions, presents the following result:

EXPENSES.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
Liabilities on 1st January 1854	1,450	0	0
Cost of establishment and contingent expenses for 1854 -	2,153	0	0
Interest for nine months, and first instalment of public debt	471	0	0
	4,074	0	0

RECEIPTS.

Cr.	£	s.	d.
Cash in Treasury on 1st January 1854 - -	598	0	0
Revenue collected during year 1854 - - - -	2,701	0	0
Revenue outstanding - -	161	0	0
	3,460	0	0
Liabilities unprovided for on 31st December 1854 - -	614	0	0
	4,074	0	0

The cost of establishment and contingent and miscellaneous expenses for the past year have been considerably lower than on any previous year, in consequence of the abolition of some offices, the amalgamation of others at reduced salaries, and a general reduction in the expenditure of the public institutions effected by increased economy.

Imports and Exports.

7. There is a diminution in the estimated value of imports, as compared with that of 1853, amounting to 1,550*l.*, chiefly attributable to the outbreak of cholera in the islands of Barbadoes and St. Kitt's, from whence the supplies for this colony are chiefly derived; large cargoes shipped from England for Montserrat viâ these islands were detained by quarantine regulations many months in the ports of Bridgetown and Basseterre, and did not arrive here until after the commencement of the present year. This decrease, however, is more than compensated for by the large increase in the estimated value of the exports, amounting to 4,832*l.*, being an increase of fifty per cent. upon the estimated value of exports in the year 1853. The total value of imports and exports for 1854 stands respectively at 8,963*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* and 14,515*l.* 13*s.* leaving a balance in favour of the latter of 5,525*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*

8. The revenue derived from the duties on imports and exports combined exceeds the amount collected from the same sources in 1853 by 100*l.* 8*s.* 8¾*d.*, the account being as follows:

1853.	£	s.	d.	1854.	£	s.	d.
Import duty - - -	1,158	18	2½	Import duty - - -	1,011	14	1
Export duty - - -	306	19	11	Export duty - - -	554	12	9
Totals - -	1,465	18	1¼	Total - -	1,566	6	10

9. The increase in the export duty of 1854, as compared with 1853, of nearly 100 per cent., being a specific charge upon the bulk, will exhibit the remarkable improvement in our sugar crop for the past year, even more strongly than the increase in the estimated value of the exports for 1854, which, in consequence of the fall in the price of produce, exceeds the estimated value of the exports of the previous year by only 50 per cent., while the quantity exported was nearly doubled. I annex a statement of the amount of sugar, molasses, and rum exported during the past ten years, which will exhibit the rapid stride which this colony has taken during the past year; and I am happy to state that the prospect of the crop for the present year leads me to anticipate that, under the Divine blessing, the result will be even still more favourable.

EXPORTS.

Years.	Sugar estimated in Hogsheads.	Molasses in Puncheons.	Rum in Puncheons.
1845	748	316	36
1846	573	380	10
1847	971	527	76
1848	532	126	11
1849	746	336	36
1850	362	119	24
1851	868	434	44
1852	731	261	36
1853	526	165	12
1854	983	367	97

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Agriculture.

10. The enumeration of these articles of production leads naturally to a consideration of the condition and prospects of agriculture in this colony. I am happy to be enabled to report that, notwithstanding the great difficulties with which the planters have to contend, there is a decided improvement in the cultivation of the sugar estates, and consequently a considerable increase of the article. There is also a greater breadth of land under cultivation at this moment than there has been since the year 1844. Nine tenths of the estates in the island have changed hands within the last few years; formerly, and indeed until very lately, the entire island was owned by absentee proprietors; there are at present, I believe, but two of that class, and the new and far more numerous class of small resident proprietors, although unfortunately not possessed of as great an amount of capital as might be desired, are endeavouring, now that the hope of protection has vanished for ever, to compensate for its loss by greater economy of labour, and a larger application of science and skill to the cultivation and manufacture of their produce; but it is needless to underrate the vast difficulties with which they have to contend, and I cannot feel very sanguine as to their ultimate success, unless great reductions are effected in the "establishment" of the island, and local taxation is in consequence diminished. I believe I may confidently assert that in no part of Her Majesty's dominions are the charges upon land so heavy in proportion to the extent and capabilities of its resources, as in Montserrat. All taxation here, whether direct or indirect, must be borne by the owners or occupiers of the soil; there is no other class or trade or manufacture upon whom taxation can be imposed, and the direct taxation alone upon estates collected under the heads of "export duty" and "property tax" amounts to 33 per cent. upon the letting value; thus, for example, an estate let for 150*l.* per annum pays 50*l.* sterling per annum in direct taxation, in addition to heavy import duty of nearly 25 per cent. upon all the necessaries of life, and all plantation stores and machinery, together with the interest upon the earthquake loan. I annex in the Appendix to this Report Return No. 1, which will exemplify this more fully.

No. 1, in Appendix.

No. 2, in Appendix.

11. I also annex a return, No. 2, in Appendix, which will exhibit still more startling results. It will appear from this return that the taxation raised in 1853 amounted to the sum of 3,250*l.*, and that the amount levied in 1853 from the private borrowers by the Loan Commissioners for interest upon 15,000*l.* amounted to 750*l.*, being a total raised in the island by taxation of 4,000*l.*, while the gross amount realized by the island for the sale of its produce, after deducting freight, commission, and other expenses in England, did not exceed 6,500*l.*, leaving but 2,500*l.* to defray the labour and cost of production; nor have I reason to believe that the year 1853 varies much from several previous years. It is clear, therefore, that the sugar estates, except, perhaps, in one or wo individual cases which were free from debt, were all worked at a loss, and that sooner or later such a state of things must come to an end. The year 1854, the most favourable the island has experienced for ten years, presents not quite so hopeless a result, in consequence of the decrease in the direct taxation, and the increase of the sugar crop. The amount raised in 1854 by taxation amounted to - - - - £2,800 0 0

Ditto, by Loan Commissioners from private borrowers for interest upon 15,000*l.*, and first instalment of principal of debt - - - - 1,200 0 0

Total - - - - £4,000 0 0

While the sum realized by sale of produce and exports for the year 1854, after deducting charges in England, amounts to about 11,000*l.*, leaving 7,000*l.* to pay labour and cost of production. And when it is considered that in the item of sugar alone the island shipped nearly 1,000 hogsheads, the cost of producing which is generally estimated at 10*s.* per cwt., or 8*l.* per hogshead, it would appear that even this year the crop was raised at a loss.

12. The question will naturally arise, why, under these circumstances, the estates have remained in cultivation, and the growth of sugar been continued; but I think this can be explained by the fact that the present proprietors have

suffered but little as yet; nearly one half of the present class have been in possession of the estates for only one year; few exceed two years. The old class of absentee proprietors, and those who received, and, I fear, misapplied the Earthquake Loan, have all been ruined and sold out. I believe but two of the original borrowers remain in possession of land in the island. The estates have generally been sold for taxes, and have rarely ever produced more than sufficient to pay the loan, whilst several sold last year under an Encumbered Estates Act, produced but 14 per cent. of the sum advanced, and the balance was added to the public debt of the colony. The new proprietors, therefore, having obtained their estates for very small sums are now fairly and honestly endeavouring to solve the question, which a few years must now decide, as to whether, by improved cultivation, greater application, and increased economy, this island can continue in cultivation; but until the amount levied each year by taxation bears a smaller proportion to the sum realized by the sale of the produce, I confess I cannot feel sanguine as to the establishment of any permanent or material prosperity. This colony must, I conceive, look exclusively to the present class of yeomen proprietors to extricate it from its difficulties, if indeed that result can be achieved at all. It is needless to expect, burdened as the land is with debt and local charges, that capitalists will ever be induced to establish themselves here while so many better opportunities offer themselves for the application of capital elsewhere, and it is only the low price of land and the low rate of wages that exist here, which have induced the present proprietors, many of whom come from Barbadoes, to seek that field here for the application of their skill, labour, and very limited capital, which, in consequence of the high price of land and the amount of capital brought to bear upon the cultivation and manufacture of its produce, was denied to them elsewhere.

13. I hope I shall not be considered presumptuous, considering my short experience of but twelve months here, if I venture to express the conviction which many years practical acquaintance with land and farming pursuits in the mother country has enabled me to form, viz., that although the profits from the production of sugar may never again equal those of past years, or support in opulence an absentee proprietary, still, to an unencumbered, resident, working proprietor, who is not overwhelmed by local taxation, the profits even at the present prices—taking, of course, into calculation the amount of capital invested—are equal to, if not greater than those derived from any description of farming at home with which I am acquainted. I refer, of course, to the result of farming at home previous to the rise which I am informed has taken place in the price of all farming produce since the close of 1853; and were it not for the overwhelming local taxation, I conceive that this beautiful little island, from the extraordinary fertility of its soil, the favourable nature of its climate, the absence of those protracted draughts which have proved so injurious to neighbouring islands, and from the comparative abundance of labour at a low rate of wages, could successfully compete with almost any sugar-growing colony in these seas.

14. I have earnestly endeavoured to urge the consideration of these views upon all those who are interested in the welfare and prosperity of this island, and to impress upon the planters that it is to a reduction of local taxation they must now look for any permanent relief from the difficulties which surround them; nor have I allowed any opportunity to pass without endeavouring to give effect, as far as lay in my power, to such a policy. Upon the resignation of the late Treasurer in November last, the offices of Colonial Secretary and Treasurer were combined, whereby a saving of nearly 100*l.* per annum was effected. Upon the suspension of the puisne justice in December last, the duties of that office were undertaken by the stipendiary justice without any salary, by which means, provided such an arrangement be confirmed, a further retrenchment of 100*l.* will be effected. I am at this moment endeavouring to induce the Legislature to consent to an abolition of two out of the three Loan Commissioners, and I have, during the past year, invariably refused to accord the executive assent to votes of public money as gratuities to private individuals, such as formed a considerable item in the expenditure of former years. There are several other offices which may be designated as sinecures, and which, as they become vacant, might be abolished with advantage; but I doubt whether anything short of a complete alteration of the system of taxation will ever effect a sufficient reduction to produce any very material result.

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The revenue last year of 2,701*l.* was raised in five distinct modes, viz.: import duties, export duties, tonnage duties, property tax, and liquor licences. I conceive that the necessary revenue might be raised by two simple and inexpensive means, viz., a direct property tax upon all houses and lands, and by trade licences. The taxation would be borne by the same classes as at present, but from the simplicity of the process and the abolition of imports and exports, and consequently of the staff connected with the collection of these and the other various duties, the expenditure of the island might be reduced by nearly one half. It is unnecessary, however, to dwell further upon the details of such a scheme, as I fear that any measure for effecting such a change would meet with the strenuous opposition of the House of Assembly, constituted as that branch of the Legislature is at present; besides in a small community such as this, vested interests and established usages concur so strongly that when any general reduction or improvement is attempted, the crippled finances and cloud of compensations to be afforded scare away all change.

Debt.

16. Frequent allusion having been made during the progress of this report to the "Earthquake Loan," a brief explanatory statement upon the subject may not be out of place.

17. The amount advanced to this colony by Her Majesty's Government in the years 1844 and 1846, to repair the damages caused by the earthquake of 1843, amounted to 23,000*l.*, 3,500*l.* of which sum was appropriated by the island for the repairs of public buildings, the salaries of the commissioners, and the expenses connected with the distribution of the loan, and 19,500*l.* distributed amongst the private borrowers. Since that time, however, several estates have been sold under an Encumbered Estates Act, and having produced but 14 per cent. upon the amount originally advanced upon them, the balance of the debt fell upon the public. The proportion in which the loan is at present borne by the public and by private borrowers, omitting fractions, is as follows:

Public debt - - - -	£ 8,000
Due by private borrowers - - -	15,000
	£23,000

Interest at the rate of 3¼ per cent. upon the principal outstanding, and instalments of principal at the rate of 5 per cent. upon the original loan, will continue to become due on the first day of May for each of the next nineteen years; at present the yearly payments amount to 1,897*l.* 10*s.*, being 8¼ per cent. upon 23,000*l.*, but this sum will be reduced each year by the interest on the instalment repaid the previous year. It cannot, however, be denied that under the present circumstances of the colony this amount is raised with considerable sacrifice and great difficulty, and that the island during the past year has made a most gallant struggle. On the 1st January 1854, the arrears of interest due to Her Majesty's Government, up to the previous 1st August 1853, amounted to 1,047*l.* The entire of this arrear has been paid up, in addition to the nine months' interest accrued due the 1st of May last, together with the first instalment of principal, amounting altogether to 2,757*l.*, and for the first time since the year 1846 the island is not in arrear for interest due to Her Majesty's Government; but there is a point beyond which burdens cannot wisely be imposed, and I would respectfully submit to your Excellency, that there never was a period in the history of Montserrat where the strenuous exertions by which all classes of proprietors in the island are endeavouring to extricate themselves from the difficulties with which the apathy and extravagance of their predecessors have surrounded them were more entitled to consideration, or when the colony was in such a critical condition that a little forbearance would be more likely to produce good results. I would not propose any extension of the time for repayment, or the remission of any portion of a debt so grossly misapplied; but I would venture to suggest, that the same terms might be granted to this island that Her Majesty's Government have, I believe, granted to Irish proprietors in reference to the repayment of sums advanced under the "Land Improvement Act, Ireland," which, I believe, provides for the repayment of the

principal and interest of the sum advanced by the yearly payment of 6¼ per cent. for twenty-one years. Such a boon, if accorded to Montserrat, would prove an incalculable relief at the present moment. Nor can it, I conceive, be urged with fairness in opposition to such a proposition that it would deal unfairly with posterity; the present proprietors merely ask that their successors should contribute in the same proportion with them towards the repayment of a sum from the expenditure of which neither have derived any benefit, and the doubt must naturally suggest itself to every thinking mind, whether, if some relief in this or some other shape be not afforded to a community, upon whom the taxation, during the most favourable season they have experienced for years, has amounted to 36 per cent. upon the gross amount realized by the sale of their produce, there will remain any property for posterity to share.

Education.

18. No assistance is afforded by the colony to the schools throughout the island; there are eight free schools in connexion with the Church of England, containing 583 scholars. The teachers, nine in number, are paid from funds placed at the disposal of the bishop of the diocese by the Government, and by the "Christian Faith Society," the whole expenditure being 121*l.*, of which sum the society contributes 70*l.* The children are carefully instructed in reading, their religious training being the object chiefly desired; but in five of the schools they are taught writing and arithmetic, the parents furnishing materials for these purposes. A yearly examination is made, and having been present at the last, I am enabled from my own knowledge to bear testimony to the intelligence, quickness, and remarkable facility of acquiring knowledge exhibited by all the scholars upon that occasion. The Rev. Mr. Todd, under whose superintendence these schools are placed, states in the yearly report which he has made to me upon this interesting subject, "I have much pleasure "in being able to state that, for the last three years, I have observed marked "improvement of the children in secular and religious knowledge; they are "particularly remarkable for the quickness and precision with which they "commit any instruction to memory. I regret to be obliged to inform "your Honour that from information received from the bishop, under date "1st January, I am led to infer that the salaries of the teachers paid from the "Government fund will be immediately withdrawn. I do not think the parents "are altogether able or willing to pay for the education of their children. I "must therefore rely upon the Legislature for assistance to maintain these "schools, or at the close of the present quarter I fear I shall be compelled "to close them."

19. I earnestly recommended the Legislature on my arrival here in April last to give to this all-important subject the attentive consideration which it demands, to which they promised an early compliance, and although they have not as yet done so, I fervently hope that nothing may interfere with the continuance of institutions which have proved so successful, and which are already producing such beneficial results.

20. There are, in addition to the foregoing eight schools I have mentioned, three free day-schools in connexion with the Wesleyan Missionary Association, containing 171 scholars, and supported altogether from the funds of the Wesleyan Society at a cost of 66*l.* 8*s.* per annum, and I am happy to be enabled to report equally favourably as to the progress and acquirements of the attendants at these schools.

21. The Rev. S. Smith, the Wesleyan missionary, under whose control these schools are placed, has transmitted to me a most gratifying report as to their progress, in which he observes, "I beg to make the following statements— "1st. That the Wesleyan mission schools in this island continue to serve the "great purpose for which they were instituted, affording as they do religious "and secular instruction to hundreds of children, chiefly of the poor and "labouring classes. 2d. That the children who attend these schools do in "general make such progress in the acquisition of useful knowledge as may "reasonably be expected. In the town day-school several have during the "year made pleasing advances in English grammar and geography, while in "all the schools the children whose attendance has been regular, have in the "several departments of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and scriptural know-

" ledge, made suitable progress. 3rd. That the number of children under in-
" struction in the several Sabbath and day schools was larger at the end of
" the year just closed than at the commencement, and that the number
" continues to increase."

Crime—Gaol, &c.

22. It is gratifying to be enabled to report, that although there is not one policeman in the island, nor a civil force of any description, that tranquillity, good order, and willing obedience to the laws prevail generally throughout this little community. For a series of years there has not been any commission of crime of an aggravated nature; during the past year there have only been six indictable offences on which convictions have been obtained, nor have these cases been attended with any serious features. There has been an increase of minor offences during 1854, as compared with 1853; the prevailing offences in which the increase mainly lies is in abusive and provoking language tending to a breach of the peace, and in riotous and noisy behaviour. The provisions of the law and the system of gaol discipline in these respects appear not to be sufficiently stringent to restrain or punish such improprieties; the law only authorizes the infliction of a fine, and in default of payment incarceration in gaol simply. An amendment might be beneficially made to enable the justices of the peace to attach hard labour, but even this would be insufficient at present; for when prisoners are sentenced to hard labour, they can only be put, if males, out of the walls, to keep the streets clean, &c., and both sexes within the prison, to keeping the premises in order, and at times in breaking a small quantity of stones. A due quantity of labour each per day should be enforced so as to make a sentence to hard labour a matter of serious reality, and not as at present of little more than form; then, and only then, a committal would be a terror to evil doers; at present they care little for it, sitting down idly in gaol. I trust that an amendment will be made in these particulars during the course of the present year.

23. The following is a comparative view of the number of the offences in 1854, and the annual average of the three immediately preceding years:—

Description of Offence.	For 1854.	Annual Average of the three former Years.
Felony - - -	2	5
Assaults - - -	49	48
Thefts of growing articles -	13	25
Other minor offences - -	158	103
Total of offences - -	222	181
Number of prisoners in gaol -	79	68

General Observations.

24. Although on the whole the present retrospect does not, I fear, exhibit many features of substantial or permanent prosperity, yet the year 1854 may fearlessly challenge a comparison with any of the preceding years: the revenue derived from exports and imports has increased; the expenditure has diminished; all outstanding arrears due to Her Majesty's Government have been paid off; the debt has been reduced by the payment of one twentieth of the principal of the loan; a larger crop has been raised than any for the last ten years; the cultivation of the estates has improved; the spirit of self reliance and self exertion which exists appears ready to encounter and determined to overcome all difficulties; the labouring population are orderly, contented, and possessed of considerable wealth in the shape of stock; they are also in the full enjoy-

ment of all the necessaries, and many of—what at least are considered by them to be—the luxuries of life. The violent opposition, apparently determined to oppose every measure emanating from the executive, with which I was encountered upon the very moment of my arrival, has very sensibly diminished, and I have no doubt will very shortly cease to exist. The ill feelings and dissensions produced by the petty private jealousies and feuds by which I found the principal families in this island divided upon my assumption of this government in April last, have, I rejoice to state, in a great measure subsided, and comparative good will and harmony prevail generally among the members of this little community.

25. Such is the pleasing, and I believe unexaggerated picture which I am enabled to draw of the condition and comparative improvement and progress of this colony during the past year, and which presents abundant grounds for hopefulness and gratitude; but if in any one particular more than another there is reason for devout thankfulness, it is to be found in the fact that while the horrors of pestilence have raged around, more than decimating the population of several of the neighbouring colonies, within sight even of these shores, the dreadful calamity has not been permitted to visit this island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. R. ROBINSON,

President.

Governor Mackintosh,
&c. &c.

Enclosure 1. in No. 18.

RETURN showing the DIRECT TAXATION on SUGAR ESTATE in this ISLAND.

Encl. 1. in No. 18.

Name of Estate.	Value in Levy Bill.	Yearly Rental or estimated Annual Value.	Estimate of Export Duty paid last Year.	Property Tax at One per Cent.	Total Direct Taxation.	Remarks.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	
Gages	3,110	250	17 10 0	31	48 10 0	Under-lease.
Sym's and Lees	3,996	120	12 10 0	40	52 10 0	Ditto.
Webbs	3,352	150	30 0 0	33	63 0 0	Ditto.
Dagnams	5,000	250	35 0 0	50	85 0 0	—
Grove and Richmond	6,660	250	40 0 0	66	106 0 0	—
Frfyes	2,665	120	15 0 0	26	41 0 0	Under-lease.
Delvins	2,220	50	6 0 0	22	28 0 0	Ditto.
Amershams	3,352	150	40 0 0	33	73 0 0	Ditto.
Parsons	3,110	150	40 0 0	31	71 0 0	—
Brodericks	4,450	200	20 0 0	44	64 0 0	—
Roaches	5,350	200	40 0 0	53	93 0 0	—
Farrels	4,400	150	20 0 0	44	64 0 0	Under-lease.
Paradise	2,200	100	7 10 0	22	29 10 0	—
Tuitts and Bethels	6,880	300	35 0 0	68	103 0 0	—
Farm	3,300	150	Nil.	33	33 0 0	—
Old Road	3,110	200	2 0 0	31	33 0 0	—
Waterwork	3,110	150	Nil.	31	31 0 0	—
Reeds Hill and Spring	4,450	150	5 0 0	44	49 0 0	Under-lease.
Bransby's	3,110	100	9 0 0	31	40 1 0	—
Taw River	2,665	60		26		
Whites	2,665	100	46 0 0	26	142 0 0	—
Hermitage	4,400	200		44		
Streathams and Ryleys	3,100	150	15 0 0	31	46 0 0	—
Germans Bay	1,552	40	Nil.	15	15 0 0	—
Valley	1,552	50	10 0 0	15	25 0 0	—
Old Northward	1,000	50	6 0 0	10	16 0 0	—
Sweenys	330	40	2 0 0	3	5 0 0	—
Barzeys	2,664	50	6 0 0	26	32 0 0	—
Folly and Carrs Bay	3,352	100	6 0 0	33	39 0 0	—
Trants	3,504	50	Nil.	35	35 0 0	—
Needsmust	3,352	20	4 0 0	33	37 0 0	Under-lease.
Galways	3,100	75	5 0 0	31	36 0 0	—
Look-out	880	50	5 0 0	8	13 0 0	Under-lease.
	£					
Annual Valuation	4,225					
Direct Taxation	1,548	108,341	4,225	479 10 0	1,069	1,548 10 0

Enclosure 2. in No. 18.

STATEMENT showing the Amount of Taxation raised during the last Ten Years, together with the Articles exported.

YEAR.	TAXATION.								EXPORTS.						Value of Exports enumerated.	REMARKS.
	Property Tax.	Imperial Duty.	Rum Tax.	Cattle Tax.	Income Tax.	Tariff Duty.	Other Sources.	Total Revenue raised.	Sugar in Hogsheads.	Rum in Puncheons.	Melasses in Puncheons.	Cattle, Number of Head.	Wood in Cords.	Staves in M.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£							£	
1845	649	418	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1,472	113	2,652	748	36	316	131	Nil.	Nil.	Cannot be correctly ascertained.	The value of the Exports for the last two years has been ascertained from the prices current of the principal planters in the colony, and has been calculated as the amount realized by them, after deducting freight, commission, and other expenses in England.
1846	1,515	240	Nil.	704	Nil.	1,205	84	3,748	573	10	280	267	Nil.	Nil.		
1847	1,521	174	Nil.	737	Nil.	1,063	68	3,563	971	76	527	260	29	Nil.		
1848	330	144	259	758	Nil.	979	84	2,551	532	11	126	181	12	Nil.		
1849	345	163	347	661	—	1,264	107	2,887	746	36	336	171	Nil.	Nil.		
1850	895	185	181	505	222	1,094	89	3,171	362	24	119	282	237	Nil.		
1851	846	163	47	499	143	1,169	126	2,995	868	44	431	177	628	Nil.		
1852	1,077	219	15	372	124	1,283	106	3,196	731	36	261	127	510	Nil.		
1853	1,563	66	10	71	Nil.	1,399	141	3,250	526	12	165	168	1,032	5	6,500	
1854	1,123	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1,566	127	2,816	983	97	367	143	437	32½	11,000	

Note.—The amount levied by the Loan Commissioners for interest, &c. on Earthquake Loan from the private borrowers is not included in the above return of taxation; it amounted in 1853 to 750*l.*, and in 1854 to 1,200.

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No. 20.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Mackintosh to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 41.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 22, 1855.
(Received June 16, 1855.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of St. Kitts for 1854, together with a copy of the Report of the Lieut.-Governor on the details which form its contents.

Apart from the immediate effects of the invasion of epidemic cholera, which has marked the year 1854 in the annals of St. Kitts, the material interest at least of the island appear to have been maintained during that period in a satisfactory manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

In No. 20.

In No. 20.

Copy of a Despatch from Lieut.-Governor Robinson to Governor General Mackintosh.

(No. 19.)

Sir,

Saint Kitts, May 5, 1855.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith, the Blue Book of Saint Kitts, in duplicate, for the year 1854.

2. My recent assumption of the government of this island, which dates only from the 5th March last, some months subsequent to the expiration of the period to which this return refers, necessarily precludes my transmitting upon the present occasion any lengthened report, or expressing any opinion deduced from personal experience or observation as to the condition or progress of this interesting dependency during the past year. I shall therefore confine myself to a few remarks upon such subjects as present themselves to my notice, upon a a careful comparison of this return with those of previous years.

3. The year 1854 has been rendered painfully remarkable by the appearance for the first time in this hitherto peculiarly healthful island of Asiatic cholera in its most aggravated form. The epidemic broke out in the town of Basseterre upon the 1st of November last, and swept over the entire island with almost unexampled severity, carrying to their graves, in less than three months, nearly one sixth part of the population. The disease finally disappeared in January; the last death from cholera is reported to have taken place on the 31st January 1855. The Medical Inspector General, Doctor Thomas H. Cooper, arrived here shortly after the outbreak of cholera, and remained during the prevalence of the disease, actively engaged in affording all the assistance and advice in his power; shortly before his departure, this gentleman presented to my predecessor a very comprehensive and interesting statement of all the circumstances connected with this fatal visitation, a printed copy of which paper I transmit herewith in the appendix forwarded with this Report.

Population, 24,571.

Deaths, 3,920.

No. 1. in Appendix.

Doctor Cooper's Report on Cholera.

4. The total expenditure incurred in connexion with this calamity amounted to nearly 5,500*l.* sterling.

5. Upon the 1st January 1854, there was an available balance in the treasury to the credit of the colony, after taking into calculation the liabilities outstanding at that date, of nearly 5,000*l.* sterling; the whole of this surplus was absorbed chiefly by the increased expenditure already referred to, and the

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present year commenced, as will be seen from the following statement, with liabilities unprovided for to the extent of about 2,000*l.* sterling.

Liabilities on 31st December 1854.	£	s.	d.
Gross amount of liabilities on 31st December 1854, including salaries of public officers and amounts due to public institutions - - -	3,425	0	0
About - -	3,425	0	0

Assets on 31st December 1854.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Treasury on 31st December 1854 - -	1,392	3	7
Revenue outstanding - -	Nil.		
Totals - -	1,392	3	7
Excess of liabilities over assets, 31st December 1854 - -	2,032	16	5
	3,425	0	0

6. It is a source of much satisfaction to me to be enabled to state that the whole of this debt has since been liquidated, and that all the claims upon the Treasury have been paid in full to the date of this Despatch. I confidently anticipate that the revenue will be amply sufficient to meet the expenses of the current year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

7. There is an increase in the revenue of 1854, as compared with that of 1853, amounting to 437*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, being respectively 14,206*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, and 14,644*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The expenditure for the same period is increased from 12,632*l.* 11*s.* to 19,994*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, making a difference of 7,362*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*

8. The items of expenditure upon which there appear any considerable increase are,

1st. Police force;
2d. Medical attendance;
3d. Ecclesiastical establishment;
4th. Roads;
5th. Public works;
6th. Sanitary regulations.

The expenditure under the first head was caused by the employment of a large number of rural constables in connexion with the enforcement of rigid "quarantine regulations," previous to the outbreak of cholera; under the second head, by the appointment of medical practitioners, by virtue of Act, No. 713, entitled "An Act to provide medical attendance for the infant "children of the labouring population," passed 5th December 1853; under the item of "ecclesiastical establishment," by the payment of arrears of salary due for the previous year to the late Archdeacon, Mr. Brathwaite. The increase under the head of "roads," and "public works," was caused by the repairs of the bridges and watercourses throughout the island, by the commencement of a wharf for the landing and shipment of goods and produce, and the purchase of land for a cemetery in the vicinity of the town of Basseterre. The increased expenditure, under the item of "sanitary regulations," exceeding the increase under all the previous heads added together, was caused by the expenses consequent upon the awful visitation with which the island was afflicted.

9. The increase in the revenue, though trifling, is very gratifying, considering that it was accomplished, notwithstanding the abolition during the past year of the house tax, and the exemption from import duties of manures, coal, agricultural implements, and all machinery employed in the manufacture of sugar. Had the taxation upon these several sources of income been continued, the increase would have been very considerable. The amount lost by the relinquishment of these taxes upon improvement has, however, been more than compensated by the steady increase in the value of exports and imports, and by the consequent increase of the revenue derived from these sources.

10. The total revenue received in each of the three last years was—

In 1852 - - - -	£13,265
In 1853 - - - -	14,206
In 1854 - - - - -	14,644

11. The value of the imports and exports for a similar period appears to have been as follows:—

	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
In 1852 - -	£76,680	- £91,741
In 1853 - -	91,935	- 131,812
In 1854 - -	107,965	- 133,089

12. The comparative relation of the values of exports to imports in the above return shows a healthy state of exchange.

13. It must, however, be borne in mind when perusing these tables, that although the value of the imports can always be ascertained with tolerable accuracy, such is not the case with reference to the exports; the various fluctuations in the home market, the quality of the article, the time and place of sale, can never be estimated with any degree of certainty. The officer entrusted with the preparation of these returns can, therefore, only make a rough calculation of what he conceives to be the average price for the year, from the information afforded to him by the various merchants, and fill up the return accordingly. The assumed value of the exports, as entered in these tables, cannot therefore be considered as any indication of the condition of the island, nor do these returns exhibit, with any degree of accuracy, the relative quantity of produce raised and exported during successive years; thus, for example, it appears to me that the value placed upon produce exported in 1853, as compared with that of 1854, is greater than the ruling prices of our staples in the home markets for those periods would justify, and in consequence the value of the exports for 1854, by the foregoing return, scarcely exceeds that of 1853, while the quantity of every description of produce exported was very materially increased. The following return of the quantity of produce exported will show more clearly the great improvement which has taken place during the last three years in this important particular.

	£
1853 -	131,812.
1854 -	133,089.

EXPORTS.

Year.	Sugar estimated in Hogsheads.	Molasses in Puncheons.	Rum in Puncheons.	Salt in Barrels.
1852	5,140	1,902	723	Nil.
1853	7,053	2,793	870	Nil.
1854	7,916	3,178	1,922	24,653

Public Works.

14. The main principal highways continue to be maintained in an effective state at the expense of the general revenue of the island. A sum of nearly 1,700*l.*, in addition to the regular annual grant of 1,000*l.* sterling, fixed by statute for the repairs of the roads, was expended during the past year, under the authority of resolutions of the Legislature, in the erection and maintenance of bridges and watercourses, the building of walls, and other extraordinary expenses connected with this department.

15. A sum of 1,330*l.* was expended during the same period in the repairs of churches and public buildings, and also in the rebuilding of Fort Thomas. All the public buildings are now in good order, with the exception of the church in Basseterre, which is in a state of total dilapidation. The Legislative Houses have lately decided upon building a new church upon the site of the present ruin, and intend to raise a sufficient sum by loan, in anticipation of the revenue, for the purpose of enabling them to commence at once this very desirable object.

16. The waterworks have not progressed during the past year. The metal pipes which were purchased in 1853 at an expense of 1,000*l.* sterling, have but lately been received. I hope that this most desirable project for supplying the inhabitants of Basseterre with an abundance of pure and wholesome water, will be perfected during the present year.

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17. A wharf for the landing and shipment of goods, produce, and passengers, a luxury hitherto unknown in St. Kitts, was commenced last year, and at the time of writing, I am happy to state, is nearly completed.

18. A piece of land outside the town of Basseterre was last year purchased as a cemetery, and it is in contemplation, as soon as the revenue will permit, to surround it with a wall, and from that time all interments in the town will cease.

Population.

No. 2. in Appendix. Census Returns, 1855.

19. Appended to this Despatch is the report of the commissioners for taking the census upon the 1st January last, with analytical tables, which show the divisions of the population under various heads.

On the morning of the 1st of January last the population was found to be—

Males - - - - -	9,525
Females - - - -	11,216
Total - -	20,741

20,741
3,830
24,571
23,177
584
3,037
26,798
24,571
2,227

The most remarkable feature in this return is, that when the deaths from cholera to 31st December 1854 (3,830) are added to the above, and the numbers compared with the census taken in June 1844 (23,177), after allowing for the immigrants arrived in the colony subsequently (584), together with the excess of births over deaths for the past ten years (3,037), there appears a decrease in the population of 2,227 which cannot be accounted for, and must be attributed either to incorrectness, by over estimate in the census returns of 1844, or to emigration, but more probably the former, considering that the persons employed in the collection of those returns were paid in proportion to the number of names returned.

Immigration.

20. The subject which is now all-important, as affecting the staple productions of this colony, is that of "labour." I am informed that great difficulty was experienced by the planters last year in obtaining a sufficiency of continuous labour, and this want has been very materially increased by the loss, which has been already stated, of one sixth part of the population at the close of the past year, occasioned by the recent outbreak of cholera. At the time of writing the crop is moving off but slowly, and fears are generally expressed, by those most competent of forming a correct opinion, that a considerable portion of the present crop, which otherwise holds out fair promise of an abundant harvest, will be, if not wholly lost, at least greatly deteriorated in quality and reduced in quantity by being allowed to remain in the ground beyond the proper time.

21. The Legislature appear alive to the importance of this question, and have lately had under their consideration the means to be adopted for supplying this deficiency by immigrant labour, as it seems to be the general opinion that the only mode by which agricultural operations can in future be carried on is by a large and immediate supply of immigrants from Madeira.

22. An Act of the island has accordingly been passed within the last few weeks, having for its object "the encouragement of the immigration of agricultural "labourers," by means of bounties to be raised by a tax upon exports; but it can scarcely be anticipated that any benefit can be derived therefrom in sufficient time to assist in extricating the planters from the difficulty at present experienced by them with regard to this year's crop; and I very much doubt whether any very large measure of relief will even ultimately be obtained from an enactment by which about two hundred immigrants only can be introduced during each twelvemonths, unless indeed the importation of new hands should, as it is hoped it may, stimulate to increased energy and activity the resident labouring population of the island.

23. It is a fact beyond all dispute, that there is a sufficient number of labourers in this colony to till even a greater extent of land than that at present in cultivation; but the requirements of that class are so limited, the facilities for raising any quantity of ground provisions so great, and rest considered such a luxury, that there does not appear to exist any motive for more than the most

desultory and feeble exertion. It is obvious that every increase in the rate of wages must have the tendency of lessening the motive to labour; and I very much fear that the present difficulties have in some measure arisen from the planters not being true to each other, but endeavouring to seduce away their neighbours labourers by offers of increased wages, or other inducements in the shape of perquisites; such a short-sighted policy, rarely affording even present gain to those who pursue it, must of necessity increase the difficulty tenfold, and although my short experience scarcely justifies me in venturing to offer any opinion, I cannot but think that relief is to be found, rather in a community of interest amongst the planters themselves, and an united determination to be honest to each other and to co-operate for the general welfare, than in the small amount of immigration which can be anticipated under the provisions of the late Act.

Education.

24. I regret that I have not anything satisfactory to report under this head; since the year 1849 there has not been any grant of public money for educational purposes, There are twenty-three day schools in the island, supported entirely by school fees and voluntary contributions, at an expense of 574*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* per annum; the number of scholars in attendance at these schools appear by the return in the Blue Book to amount to 1,947, or nearly one in twelve as compared with the population previous to the outbreak of cholera, to which period exclusively these returns refer. The following is a return of the number of attendants at the schools in connexion with each religious denomination for the last five years:—

Attendants at School in connexion with	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
Church of England - -	646	796	736	688.	507
Wesleyan Mission - - -	776	885	883	869	909
United Brethren - - -	550	850	439	519	531
Total - - -	1,972	2,521	2,058	2,076	1,947

It will be seen by the above that there has been no material decrease in the total numbers returned as attending day schools since 1850, but these figures, at least during 1854, represent merely the number of names on the school books, scarely two thirds of whom are regular attendants. The Venerable Archdeacon Jermyn has made the following report to me upon the unsatisfactory state of the schools under his superintendence, under date 4th May 1855:—

"In reply to your Excellency's inquiry respecting the condition of the "several parish schools in this island in connexion with the Established "Church, I beg to report that having only commenced my residence here in "the autumn of last year, I can give no very accurate information as to the "internal condition of each school, but so far as I could judge of their con-"dition generally, nothing could be worse. I found existing ten schools in the "nine parishes, all of them supported by voluntary contributions, but these "contributions had for some time past been gradually falling off to such an "extent, that five out of the ten schools had to be closed at Christmas, "1854, for want of funds. I have since that date re-opened four of them, "but with no sufficient or permanent provision.

"The numbers reported as in attendance at each school I found to be in a "measure fictitious, the attendance of the children being very irregular, and "the names left on the books long after they could fairly be reckoned in "attendance, and even in many cases after they had been some time dead; "this, however, I have to a certain extent corrected in the Blue Book returns "for 1854.

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"I must not omit to mention that the class of persons employed as teachers, "both male and female, is anything but satisfactory; the salaries paid are "so small, sometimes not exceeding 5*l.* per annum, and the payment even of "these so precarious and irregular that persons of intelligence, and sufficiently "educated for the purpose, can hardly be found to undertake the office."

25. The Rev. W. T. Waymouth, Wesleyan missionary, has made a report to me of the condition of the schools in connexion with the Wesleyan mission, of which the following is an extract:

"At each of the nine stations occupied by the Wesleyan missionaries, a day "school is established for the benefit chiefly of the children of the labouring "population; the whole number on the list of both sexes at the close of 1854 "was 909; the daily attendance may be estimated at about two thirds of the "whole."

26. Still more unsatisfactory must be considered the following extracts from a letter addressed to me by the Reverend Augustus Clemens, Moravian missionary, upon the same subject:—

"I beg to state that there are four schools in connexion with the Church of "the United Brethren in this island, in charge of six teachers, and entirely "supported by voluntary contributions. These schools have been attended "during the past year, 1854, by the average number of 531 scholars, and main-"tained at the expense of 145*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*; but we are sorry to say that our scholars "attend very irregularly, many miss once or twice a week; some attend school "one week, and go out to work the next; we hardly think that more than half "the number stated above are truly regular in their attendance at school."

27. The general decrease in the number of regular attendants must, in a great measure, I conceive, be attributed to the inefficiency of the teachers at present employed. I trust the Legislative Houses will be induced to grant, during the next session, a sum of money for educational purposes; and that when a higher rate of salary can be offered, a better class of teachers may be secured.

Crime.

No. 3. in Appendix. Return of No. of Convicts.

28. The returns under this head continue of a satisfactory character. I append a paper marked 3 in Appendix, showing the number of convicts in gaol during each of the three last years, with the nature of the crime committed by each, which shows a diminution in 1854, as compared with 1852, of more than one half the total numbers standing for the last three years, as under:—

1852 - - - -	348
1853 - - -	168
1854 - - -	173

Convicts, 170. Population, 24,571.

29. The average number of convicts for the years 1853 and 1854, being only in the ratio of 1 to 144, as compared with the population, will, I believe, contrast favourably with the amount of crime in almost every other island in these seas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. R. ROBINSON,
President.

To Governor General Mackintosh,
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix No. 1. in No. 20.

DR. COOPER'S REPORT ON CHOLERA.

Saint Christopher, February 28, 1855.

To his Excellency Edward Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Leeward Islands, administering the Government of the Islands of Saint Christopher and Anguilla, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c., &c.

SIR,

HAVING received instructions from his Excellency Sir William Colebrooke, Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, to proceed immediately to Saint Christopher, I embarked from Barbados November 27th on board the mail steamer, and arrived in this island on the morning of November 30th. By the command of your Excellency I at once assumed the duties of medical inspector general for the island, and I have since that period been engaged in the duties thus devolving upon me.

Cholera had first broken out in the early part of November. The first case publicly announced as a case of cholera appears to have been that of William Alexander Tittley, residing in New Town, and who had arrived three days before by the steamer "Conway" from England; there is, however, no doubt that five fatal cases had occurred in the town of Basseterre prior to this person being attacked by the disease; the first case on November 1st. This fact at once negatives any supposition that the epidemic had been introduced from England by the case of William Alexander Tittley, however disposed any individual might be to believe in so improbable a tale as its having been imported from the other side of the Atlantic by this person.

The strictest quarantine regulations have been kept up in this island since the first outbreak of cholera in the West Indies in 1850, and the greatest precautions taken, as far as the nature of quarantine laws permit, to prevent the importation of cholera, and with as little success against the outbreak of the disease as at Barbados, Saint Vincent, &c. The only other suggestion of any mode by which the epidemic might have been imported that has been mooted is the fact of two vessels lying in quarantine to the windward of the town of Basseterre, which arrived from Barbados. In answer to such suggestion it is sufficient to state, that no communication can be shown or is likely to have taken place between those vessels and the shore, that no case of cholera had ever appeared before or subsequently on board either of those vessels, and that no case of cholera had occurred in Bridge Town, Barbados, from whence these vessels came, or in its vicinity, for three months prior to this period.

On the other hand, in the autumn of the previous year cholera was raging in the neighbouring island of Nevis, which is only separated from Saint Christopher by a narrow channel of little better than two miles, easily traversed by open boats. Notwithstanding the strictest quarantine regulations at the time, and a more than usually strict watch on account of the proximity of Nevis, frequent communications there cannot be the slightest doubt were constantly kept up between that island and Basseterre by the people of an estate called the "Salt Ponds," who in their turn, deriving as they do all their supplies from Basseterre, were in the habit of communicating with this town almost daily. In addition to this, at the height of the outbreak in Nevis, a gentleman and his wife came over to Basseterre in defiance of the quarantine laws, and were actually fined for the offence.

Nevertheless no epidemic was imported by these communications with a place in the immediate locality.

That it is possible to keep an island free from this disease by any quarantine regulations is out of the question, and will hardly be asserted after the instances of the islands of Saint Christopher and Saint Vincent and Barbados, in all of which, above all others, no expense or trouble was spared to carry the regulations out in the strictest manner possible.

The possibility even of carrying out quarantine laws in these islands so as entirely to prevent any communication from infected ports is utterly hopeless, owing to the exposed nature of their coasts, could it be proved that cholera could be imported from such places. Those engaged in the task of attempting to enforce quarantine freely admit, not only the difficulty, but that in fact it never is done; and what I have mentioned as taking place with regard to Nevis and Saint Christopher I know is only an instance of what takes place constantly in other places.

Whilst on the one hand the quarantine laws are useless both as regard their object and their capabilities of effecting that object, the positive evil resulting from them is no doubt very great. That an island, even were it the sole property and kingdom of an independent sovereign, has a right to make any laws by which it shall prevent free intercourse with the world generally, is a doctrine which admits of much argument; but if these laws in effect operate to the serious detriment of neighbouring colonies, few will be inclined to admit such a right. There can exist no right in one place by which such place can make laws that shall rule others. Such, however, is in a temporary manner the effect of the various quarantine laws in the West Indies. For instance, in Demerara the local law imposes a quarantine of forty days; a passenger to Demerara by the English steamer, and the steamer itself, would be subject to forty days quarantine, should any person be received

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on board going from the island of Saint Christopher by such steamer to any intermediate place, say Barbados, until forty days have expired since the last case of cholera; so that although the island to which the traveller desires to proceed requires no such interval to have elapsed, the law in Demerara, in effect, is binding on him and prevents his progress, because such a law being in force in Demerara, those having charge of the steamer will not subject it or its passenger by receiving him on board to quarantine upon arrival at their destination. Thus Demerara in effect makes a law binding on Saint Christopher and Barbados. The inconvenience and loss arising in this manner in various ways is very serious, both to individuals and to commerce generally.

If upon consideration it be determined still to adhere to quarantine laws, at any rate one uniform law should prevail in the British colonies, and the shortest possible period fixed upon, to bear date from the day of leaving any infected port. At the Danish Island of Saint Thomas five days are the number required, and the modern advocates of quarantine deem this sufficient. The shorter the period, the less is the probability of any attempt to break the law, it then being scarcely worth while to run the risk of penalties from any infraction of it. Every place enforcing quarantine ought also to be compelled to have a proper lazaretto; many cases of great hardships occur by reason of an omission to have such a place provided. I have myself seen persons returning to their home refused permission to land, and obliged to proceed wherever the vessel would take them, wholly unprovided with funds to meet such a contingency; this too may and does occur often from the whim of the quarantine officer, against whose fiat under such circumstances there is, in consequence of the forced departure from the island, no appeal. In the case of females and of persons of moderate income this of itself is a cruel hardship, independent of the delay and annoyance of obtaining an opportunity of returning again from such places as they may be carried to. With persons engaged in trade the delay alone may be the source of incalculable injury; even if the vessel conveying the passenger should remain at the port imposing the quarantine, the being compelled to remain on board riding at anchor for any period is, under the most favourable circumstances, an annoyance, often in boisterous weather a dangerous position, and in some places, as at Demerara, an imprisonment in a most unhealthy locality at the mouth of the river. Every island imposing quarantine for their own supposed benefit ought in common justice at all events to provide a suitable lazaretto.

The circumstances attending the outbreak of cholera entirely negativing the idea that it arose from any foreign importation, its appearance at Saint Christopher is enveloped in the same mystery which has hitherto baffled every attempt to explain its eccentric path on the other places.

There are, however, some facts connected with the disease in its attacks on the West Indian islands worthy of record, not because they are new in the history of cholera, but on account of their furnishing us with some little clue to the nature of the epidemic.

The weather in Saint Christopher had been somewhat remarkable during the years of 1853 and 1854. There had been throughout the year 1853 a very unusual amount of rain, and vegetation had consequently been very rank. In February of 1854 the dry weather set in, and from that time until the end of September not a drop of rain fell in the valley of Basseterre, and the heat was unusually oppressive. The weather in the whole island had been so unseasonable that the present sugar crop is, in consequence, more than two months behind its ordinary period. Experience in the tropics proves that such weather is almost invariably the precursor of an outbreak of fever, especially of yellow fever, and of an unhealthy state generally. It was therefore probable that, should an epidemic appear, it would be of unusual severity, and the state of health was such as to render the inhabitants peculiarly liable to an attack of cholera. Observation in Europe has incontestably shown that in the larger cities where fevers, especially typhus and intermittent fever, periodically occur, at the time when an outbreak of this class of disease might be expected, or has broken out, cholera has appeared in those places, instead of or supplanting the more ordinary epidemic.

Although, in some measure, the well known peculiarity of cholera to attack particular spots or lines of houses has been observed, nothing so remarkable in this respect has taken place in Saint Christopher as did in the town of "Port of Spain" at Trinadad, where the houses on the east side of the streets generally were the chief seat of the disease, almost to the entire exclusion of the western side of the same street. The houses in the town of "Port of Spain" are built in regular square or oblong blocks, the streets, which are wide, running in perfectly straight lines down to the sea shore, and the cross streets intersecting them in straight lines at right angles.

Thus the back of the houses on the one side of a street are separated from the back of the houses in the next street by a wide open space or garden. The wind is constantly blowing from the east, so that the back of the houses on the east side of the street, owing to the open space intervening between them, and the houses on the west side of the next street, are exposed to the current of air coming from the east, whilst the proximity of the houses facing on the west side of the same street protect them from the wind; so much is this the case that the houses on the east side of the streets are always those the most sought after, on account of their being very considerably cooler, owing to their catching the breeze. Like as in cholera, so in yellow fever, those sleeping on one side of a hospital or large room have been attacked by the fever, whilst those on the beds on the opposite side

of the same room entirely escaped. The same law apparently prevails in this respect in both diseases. Upon investigating instances of this kind, occurring during an epidemic of yellow fever, I find a very remarkable coincidence with the facts above mentioned with respect to the "Port of Spain" during cholera, viz., that the side attacked was always the side exposed to the wind.

Numerous instances are recorded in which, when the cholera has broken out amongst the inmates of public buildings, the attack of this disease has been more than ordinarily severe; such was the case in the gaols of Barbados and Trinidad, in both of which the mortality was very great. On the other hand, isolated instances have occurred, in which quite the reverse has been the case. Thus it was at Saint Vincent, and more marked still in the gaol of Saint Christopher, where fourteen cases occurred amongst the forty-five prisoners confined, and five deaths, notwithstanding fifteen of the prisoners (of whom only one died) were employed during the epidemic digging the graves at the Crawl, the cholera burial ground for the parish of Saint George. I say, notwithstanding this, because, owing to the great mortality under similar circumstances at Barbados, some persons were disposed to attribute the deaths to contagion from this peculiar occupation, forgetting that the same individuals had been placed under similar circumstances in the gaol with their fellow prisoners who had suffered so severely, and it would have been singular if they had not been equally liable to attack.

In connexion with this question it may be right to mention here another very remarkable fact. Persons using musquito netting for their beds and for blinds have been known to escape in a remarkable manner epidemics of yellow fever; may this not be one of the reasons for the few cases of cholera amongst the white population in the West Indian islands. With all the foregoing facts before us, not in any way to be accounted for by any notion we have of contagion, nay, directly contradicting any idea of the kind, are we not led to the conclusion that the epidemic of cholera has been introduced into these islands by atmospheric agency.

The period during which the cholera has prevailed as an epidemic disease in the various localities of each separate island has been about eight or nine weeks, the mortality increasing up to the end of the third week, and then gradually declining. Such has also been observed to be the nature of this disease in Europe; where it has been of longer duration it seems rather to have been the result of two attacks of the epidemic than a continuation of the same one, and we consequently find the mortality, after having increased up to the end of the third week, gradually diminishing, although after a time again gradually but rapidly increasing for three weeks, when it has, as before, weekly diminished in its usual manner. I do not, of course, include sporadic cases, which, I apprehend, are attributed essentially to a different cause to that which produces the general epidemic.

The record of the persons dying daily from the epidemic in the island of Saint Christopher has been remarkably well kept, and no doubt contains every case; the great accuracy of this is, in a great measure, due to Mr. Wattley, the honorary secretary to the Board of Health, whose indefatigable zeal and industry during the outbreak of cholera in this as all the matters connected with his department deserves honourable mention. It is the only island which I have visited in which it has been possible to ascertain, with the slightest approach to accuracy, even the aggregate number of deaths from cholera. The following is a daily account of the total numbers dying in the several parishes, with the exception of the parish of Saint Peter, Basseterre, where thirty-one deaths during the first few days were included in the deaths occurring in St. George's:—

TABLE I.

	St. George, Basseterre.			Saint Peter, Basseterre.	Trinity, Palmetto Point.	Old Road.	Saint Thomas, Middle Island.	Saint Ann, Sandy Point.	Saint Paul, Capisterre.	Saint John, Capisterre.	Christ Church, Nichola Town.	Saint Mary, Cayon.	Total.
	Town and Estates.	Hospital.	Salt Ponds.										
Nov. 6	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
7	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
8	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
9	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8
10	15	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	19
11	12	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15
12	6	6	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14
13	15	7	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	24
14	21	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	23
15	14	12	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	31
16	23	5	–	–	4	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	38
17	41	8	–	–	3	4	1	1	–	–	–	–	58
18	52	11	–	–	5	4	1	–	–	–	–	1	74
19	83	23	–	6	1	3	5	1	–	–	–	1	122
20	53	13	–	6	4	17	1	–	–	–	–	–	95
21	76	18	–	10	2	14	1	–	–	–	–	1	122
22	95	15	–	14	3	17	5	6	–	–	–	1	136

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	St. George, Basseterre.			Saint Peter, Basseterre.	Trinity, Palmetto Point.	Old Road.	Saint Thomas, Middle Island.	Saint Ann, Sandy Point.	Saint Paul, Capisterre.	Saint John, Capisterre.	Christ Church, Nichola Town.	Saint Mary, Cayon.	Total.
	Town and Estates.	Hospital.	Salt Ponds.										
Nov. 23	58	7	–	7	8	26	2	5	–	1	–	1	125
24	64	10	–	11	7	22	5	10	–	1	3	9	148
25	89	9	–	3	10	33	8	7	–	1	5	12	181
26	44	5	–	10	6	23	9	13	–	–	5	9	134
27	74	9	2	9	5	22	6	25	–	3	8	12	175
28	67	9	–	20	5	14	6	19	–	–	2	14	150
29	44	7	1	17	13	14	12	33	–	–	5	11	157
30	48	8	10	15	9	14	10	26	–	1	11	22	174
Dec. 1	26	4	7	7	9	18	10	31	1	–	6	17	136
2	23	6	5	18	4	5	7	30	–	1	8	25	132
3	32	8	2	14	5	7	15	30	3	–	17	20	153
4	25	6	1	17	2	7	5	29	1	4	10	12	119
5	18	5	3	22	2	5	6	23	2	3	10	12	111
6	11	6	1	7	4	8	5	35	–	13	4	15	109
7	5	6	1	15	4	5	8	28	–	12	5	12	101
8	16	3	–	6	2	–	10	26	–	–	6	10	86
9	9	1	–	4	2	1	5	22	1	1	4	13	74
10	7	3	–	3	1	–	7	29	2	2	11	11	80
11	9	3	–	4	3	3	2	16	2	6	5	12	63
12	2	–	–	6	5	–	3	18	1	4	3	9	63
13	3	–	–	3	2	2	3	17	4	16	11	8	58
14	2	1	–	–	1	1	2	12	3	5	9	4	53
15	2	–	–	4	2	2	6	10	1	18	3	8	50
16	5	–	–	5	2	1	2	9	–	12	6	8	44
17	–	21	–	1	1	1	2	6	3	6	3	8	34
18	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	6	3	7	8	4	36
19	1	–	–	3	2	1	1	7	2	6	3	5	32
20	2	–	–	3	–	–	–	3	6	8	3	8	29
21	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	4	4	3	5	24
22	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	5	3	8	3	2	18
23	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	5	6	3	1	1	22
24	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	4	6	6	1	2	20
25	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	2	2	5	2	4	18
26	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	3	3	7	4	3	20
27	–	–	–	1	2	–	1	3	2	3	3	7	25
28	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	5	5	2	4	21
29	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	3	4	8	–	2	14
30	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	3	4	3	16
31	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	3	2	4	11
Jan. 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	3	1	2	8
2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	3	–	3	11
3	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	4	2	1	7	14
4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	6
5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	3	1	1	5
6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	1	2	–	12
7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	2	2	8
8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	1	3
9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	2
10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2
11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	–	4
12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	–	3
13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	2
14	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	2	6
16	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
17	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2
18	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	2
20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
22	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
24	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
26	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
27	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
28	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
29	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
30	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
31	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1

From this account of the total daily number of deaths in each parish the following Table is arranged by weeks, dating the first week from the several days on which the first death from cholera occurred in the respective parishes, and we find the result to agree precisely with what has been stated above to have taken place in other localities.

TABLE II.

	Week.									Total Deaths.
	1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	
St. George, Basseterre	41	304	582	365	121	29	4	4	—	1,450
Salt Ponds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
St. Peter, Basseterre	31	62	96	85	25	11	3	2	—	315
Palmetto Point	18	26	55	30	16	10	8	1	—	164
Middle Island	15	48	58	38	13	3	2	—	—	177
Old Road	85	142	55	7	5	1	—	—	—	295
Sandy Point	13	133	206	140	43	22	5	2	—	564
Saint Paul's	7	13	19	27	23	14	7	5	1	116
Dieppe Bay	6	22	62	65	37	22	10	2	1	227
Nichola Town	2	21	59	45	43	16	16	5	7	214
Cayon	14	97	106	65	40	23	14	3	3	365
TOTAL	232	868	1,298	867	366	151	69	24	12	3,920

In the former Table of daily deaths those dying in Saint Peter's during the first period of the cholera in that parish were included with those in Saint George's, but these deaths in the above Table are inserted in their proper place against the parish of Saint Peter. It must be observed, however, that several of the deaths occurring at the cholera hospital were those of persons who had been admitted from the adjoining parishes, and on this account the total number of deaths in the parish of Saint George, as given above, are slightly greater than actually was the case. With regard to "the Salt Ponds," after the disease had existed for ten days, being out of the reach of any medical assistance, the inhabitants in a body fled to Basseterre. In the case of the town of Old Road the mortality appears to have been greatest in the second week; but it should be observed that this is a most unhealthy locality, lying very low, exceedingly damp, and the houses crowded together, to the total exclusion of any thing like ventilation.

The disease, during the first period, is everywhere invariably more rapid and more intractable, and the weak, the unhealthy, the drunkard, and the dissolute are the ones first to succumb to its dreadful blow. Added to this, the people, subject to an entirely new disease, are, in the beginning, less alive to the absolute necessity of the immediate application of remedies, and the warning diarrhœa, so general a symptom ushering in the disease, does not frequently precede, or rather is almost concomitant with the state of collapse, in the violent attack during the first outbreak of the disease. Diarrhœa also invariably prevails generally amongst the inhabitants of the island; this state of the bowels the people become habituated to, and are thus rendered less disposed to regard seriously such a symptom of disease.

The cholera epidemic then appears to attack a community in a regular manner; its violence increases, the number of its victims increase rapidly in a given time, apparently by certain fixed rules, and it dies away again also at a fixed period. It attacks those living in what are ordinarily the most healthy localities of a district as well as those living where all sanitary precautions against disease are totally disregarded, whilst in many instances the inhabitants of these latter hotbeds of ordinary diseases pass exempt. It is true that where it does find its way into these unhealthy localities the inhabitants suffer most severely, yet the occasional freedom of such places, and its fixing on the more open and cleanly places in a district have led the unthinking to be inclined to consider sanitary precautions of little or no effect.

I have attempted to state facts which tend to prove it is to atmospheric influences alone that we can turn to account for the introduction of cholera into a country. If this be really the fact, is it unreasonable to account for the peculiar nature and progress of the disease where it has been introduced by the supposition that all persons and places exposed to the action of some passing atmospherical influence are impregnated with the disease at one and the same time, and that the disease lies dormant in the system in different persons a longer or shorter period, such period being regulated by the state of the health and physical powers of the persons impregnated. It was well known that such is the case in many diseases, and that they are not developed until some days subsequent to the exposure to infection, nor in the same number of days in different persons; for instance, where persons are exposed to the influence of small-pox, the disease will lie dormant for periods varying from eight to fourteen days in those exposed at the same time to the infection.

If the cholera be the result of some atmospherical influence acting at one and the same time upon the whole population, many, if not all, the peculiarities which we observe are at once accounted for. The disease acting more immediately on the unhealthy constitutions,

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and on those in whom the low powers of vitality are least able to resist, it would necessarily be those in whom the symptoms were more early developed, and who would be most severely affected, explaining at once how it is that at first the disease is so severe and intractable, and the cause of the large mortality we invariably find the case in the first three or four weeks of that disease. Its rapid rise and its gradual decline are precisely what would be expected under such circumstances. The inhabitants of low, damp, ill-ventilated, and otherwise unhealthy localties, and the idle, dissolute, and drunken, would consequently be the first in period of time, as is the case, to suffer from the epidemic, and amongst whom the disease would commit its greatest ravages, whilst although the more healthy, well-ventilated and cleanly localities might suffer when impregnated, it would not be to the extent, nor in severity, in proportion to the others. The directions of the Italians, given in accordance with their experience, not to fly to places as yet unattacked by the epidemic, but to stay where it has broken out, or to proceed to places which it has left, is perfectly intelligible upon this supposition. It is thus that we find anything which tends to lower the energy of the vital powers, exposure to cold or wet, drunkenness, and excesses of all kinds, producing their consequent depression, are so often followed immediately by an attack of the disease; all such cases have the effect of at once bringing into activity the dormant seeds of the disease.

It is imposible to give any accurate account of the number of persons attacked by cholera in this island, the materials for forming any opinion are wanting, in as much as before my arrival there were few returns of cases regularly made or kept. Besides this, from the nature of the disease even if these returns were furnished with regularity, which from pressure of cases during severity of the outbreak is seldom the case, they could scarcely be relied on, as no two persons will make a similar classification of the stages of the disease; since the period, however, of my undertaking the duties of medical inspector, the returns made to me by the medical officers and house to house visitors have been made with considerable regularity; from the returns made, the following were the number of persons and the stages of the disease in each when first seen, together with the deaths occurring amongst these cases.

TABLE III.

	Choleraic Diarrhœa.	Cholera.	Collapse.	Total Cases.	Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths to Cases.
St. George, Basseterre -	768	737	376	1,881	445	23·65 or 5 in 23.
Cholera Hospital -	—	—	—	471	256	54·35 or 5 in 9.
Other Parishes - -	1,388	1,637	635	3,660	1,075	29·91 or 5 in 16.
Total Cases reported -	2,156	2,374	1,011	6,012	1,776	29·54 or 5 in 16.

Had the whole of the cases been under medical treatment, calculating according to this ratio, it would appear that nearly one half of the population had been attacked by the disease. The missionaries in the island, especially the Moravian mission, who are accustomed to afford slight medical assistance to their flock in the absence of persons properly qualified, at once exerted themselves in a most laudable manner to assist by giving their personal attendance to the poor. Mr. Mumford at Cayon deserves the greatest praise for his unwearied attentions in this way to the sick poor of his locality; as he however has no record of the cases he attended, no result can be given. In the town of Basseterre, Mr. Waymouth of the Wesleyan mission early in the outbreak offered his services, and in a like manner undertook the care of a limited number of cases occurring amongst some of his congregation, selecting such as were not entirely destitute of comforts and the means of aiding him in his efforts. He very judiciously limited the numbers at any one time to some twelve cases, so as to enable him properly to superintend the treatment, rather than by spreading his efforts over a number of cases which it would have been physically impossible to attend to. Proceeding in this manner, his reports of the result of his labours, made from time to time, are, that besides cases of simple diarrhœa, those whom he attended having some symptoms of cholera in a more or less aggravated form were sixty-four persons, of whom forty-five recovered, and nineteen died, being a loss of about five in seventeen cases. I ought not to omit mention here of the incessant exertions of the venerable the Archdeacon Jermyn, not, it is true, in any attempt to relieve the poor sufferers in the immediate medical treatment, but in his endeavour to relieve, to his utmost, the necessities and requirements of the poor, in every way. It was in the houses and by the bedside of these that he was constantly to be found hourly, both day and night; the vast amount of good that he effected in this manner was incalculable.

The deaths, however, there is little doubt, bear a greater proportion than five out of sixteen persons suffering from the epidemic. Very many denied, nay, the general habits of the black and coloured population is a dislike to, regular medical attendance on them, they prefer to quack themselves with herbs and barks. An unfortunate combination of circumstances at the outset of the epidemic by no means tended to increase their confidence in any treatment. It appears that on the meeting of the Board of Health after the first case of cholera had appeared, the medical gentlemen then present were requested

to draw up a prescription for some general medicine with directions for use, in order that they might be distributed gratuitously, so that in the unavoidable delay in procuring immediate medical assistance, which was likely to occur from the great paucity of medical men, the sufferers might be enabled at least to obtain some suitable general remedy. The result was the recommendation of a pill containing calomel, capsicum, and one grain of opium, together with a mixture containing laudanum, spirits of camphor, sulphuric æther, and compound spirits of ammonia in equal parts. A printed hand-bill was immediately circulated, in which the public were apprized that these medicines could be obtained upon application from the public supplies, with directions that one of the pills were to be given "immediately, to be followed by three tablespoonfuls of the mixture." The ill effect of this medicine was soon made manifest, and the directions in the hand-bill stated to be a mistake, that it should have been one instead of three tablespoonfuls. The hand-bills, however, had been distributed, and no means appear to have been taken to recall them or to issue fresh ones. In the amended directions the dose would be still excessive, if the mixture were not otherwise objectionable. Upon my arrival, I at once prohibited any further distribution. The ill effect of the medicines prescribed in this manner tended to deprive the general public of confidence in the regular medical treatment; and unfortunately, just at this moment a person named "Secchi" arrived in this island with a quack nostrum which he designated "Cholera Elixir." The disposition to quackery led the people at once to buy this remedy, and for a few days large quantities appear to have been sold. Its terrible fatal effects soon produced a re-action in the public with respect to this nostrum, and on my arrival in the island I found a complete panic,—numerous cases of cholera had no doubt died without the slightest treatment, and my experience in other places proves that where the disease has been left to its own course, the deaths have been two out of every three at least of those attacked.

Taking therefore all these circumstances into account, I from my own observation should say that it is probable that about a third of the whole population were attacked by the disease; as regards sex, the proportion has been—

	Total Deaths.	Population corrected.	Per-centage of Deaths to Population.
Males - - -	1,691	11,179	15·12
Females - - -	2,229	13,392	16·44
Total - - -	3,920	24,571	15·78

so that the disease has been somewhat more fatal amongst the female than the male population, but not to any great extent.

The total mortality from the epidemic however to the number of inhabitants is very great, as contrasted with European population, although not greater than has occurred in many other places, for instance, in Barbadoes, where at least 22,000 died out of a population of 135,000 or about the same proportion. I say at least, for no record by which any positive information can be arrived at was kept, and in this respect probably St. Christopher may suffer, when compared with other islands, in as much as the faithful record of every death may make the deaths appear large. The proportion of deaths to cases in the Cholera Hospital (54·35 per cent.), although large, is by no means greater than is universally the case with Cholera patients in such institutions all over the world. Thus in 1849 in London, at St. George's Hospital 55, at the Middlesex 50, in Shoreditch Workhouse 56, in Hackney 63, in St. Luke's 66, and in St. Giles 83 per cent. of the Cholera patients died. The mortality in proportion to the cases reported 23·65 per cent. (5 in 23) in St George's parish, and an average of 29·91 per cent. (5 in 16) in the other parishes, is by no means an unsatisfactory result when compared with European statistics. In Paris in 1852, of 13,000 persons attacked, 7,000 died, or about 54 per cent.; in one department 12,393 cases and 5,958 deaths, or 47 per cent. In St. Petersburgh the deaths were upwards of 60 per cent. In Berlin, in 1848, 65 per cent. In Hamburgh the same year nearly 48 per cent.

The great difference appears to have been not the mortality in a given number of cases but the greater number of cases to the amount of population, and this perhaps may in a great measure be accounted for. The white population, as in the other islands, suffered little or no mortality, only five deaths were recorded. When we look to the habits and constitutions of the black and coloured population, the low level of the land whereon the chief part of their houses are located, and the period of the year at which the epidemic occurred, the severity of the attack may be in a great measure accounted for. The diet of the black and coloured population is almost entirely vegetable, with little or no animal food, not even milk, and if any substance other than vegetable does at any time enter into the composition of their meal, it is occasionally fish, and that generally salted. They seldom eat more than one meal (supper) in the 24 hours, and they then distend their stomachs with immense quantities of this bulky description of food. This of itself tends to debilitate the stomach and bowels; they are wholly unable to digest the large amount of food thus suddenly thrust upon them, and nature relieves herself by much of the food

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passing away undigested, in the form of diarrhœa, hence this, as has been mentioned before, is the natural habit of the bowels of the inhabitants. The description of food is by no means conducive to a plethoric state of the system, in the same manner as highly azotized food would be. Owing to the climate less animal heat is required to be developed by the body, less heat producing food is necessary, and nature, ever adapting her laws to the necessities of the case, provides abundance of vegetables and fruits in a climate where the inhabitants require this description of food, and in a climate which is so ill adapted to the raising of animal food in any quantity. It is on account of the less plethoric nature of the food that the black and coloured population suffer at all times so little from febrile diseases; it is rarely the case that any of this class of the population die from fever—nevertheless, when disease does overtake them, the vigour of the system is so slight that they are less able to withstand the shock, or to rally when brought down by any great call upon their physical powers.

To some extent we find that the same alteration, so marked in its character in the more northern or southern latitudes, of a change in the heat producing requirements by the body in summer and winter, is the case in this climate. It is true the variation of the temperature between winter and summer is not so great, still it is to the inhabitants of these countries considerable, and we find the same causes produce the same effects as they do elsewhere—in the colder weather the appetite is sharpened and more food is consumed, to produce the requisite animal heat, which produces comparatively a more plethoric state of the body especially in proportion as the warmer weather advances. The system being in a condition to generate more animal heat than is required until the summer weather has well set in, and the quantity and quality of the food has been adapted ro the requirements of the season, until the proper balance is again established, the system is predisposed to disease, and these diseases put on an inflammatory type, in consequence of the unnecessary plethoric state. When the season again changes from summer to winter the same conditions operate, but in a reverse manner, and the system is perhaps more liable to attacks of disease even than in the spring; the system is at this time depressed, from want of vigour, owing to the greater call upon it, in order to supply a constantly increasing demand for the generation of animal heat, and the consequence is an asthenic state, wherein disease has a most depressing effect.

It is well known how great a mortality occurs in attacks of disease amongst the native inhabitants in the autumnal season of the year. Dysentery and diseases of the bowels generally, at such a time for instance, are almost always fatal; it is from diseases of the bowels that the black and coloured population of these islands suffer so much, whilst diseases of the chest and fever are so fatal to the white population.

It was at such a season (the fall of the year) occurring, when the state of the weather for the last two seasons had been of an unusual character, that the epidemic, essentially a depressing disease, fell upon the people. Considering the natural want of vigour in the constitution of the native inhabitants, and the season of the year when this otherwise peculiar constitution was further depressed and most obnoxious to disease, it was reasonable to expect that there was little chance of the system being able to throw off the smallest seeds of disease, but that the slightest impregnation by any epidemic, and especially of such an epidemic, would become developed and produce great mortality.

The crowded state of inmates, considering the size of the rooms of the houses of the poor classes generally, is a great evil, but their universal habit of shutting up their houses carefully, closing at night every crevice by which the smallest particle of air can enter, thus at night breathing the same air over and over again, whereby the proper decarbonization of the blood during the hours of rest becomes impossible, renders the inmates still more susceptible of disease than even their dirty habits; the material of which the houses or huts themselves are built is also bad, keeping the inhabitants surrounded as it does by decayed wood when they are old, and especially in showery weather this is very detrimental to their health. The general construction is faulty, and the small space left between the floor and the ground is also bad; here fowls and animals congregate, and every sort of filth and decomposing organic matter is allowed to accumulate, without chance of removal; the floor of the houses, if built above the ground, ought at all events to be of sufficient height to admit of being cleaned beneath. The peculiar character of the land of the island also, whereon the population reside, is just such as has been found where Cholera attacks the inhabitants in large numbers; it is but slightly elevated above the level of the sea, and in many places almost on a level with it, as is the case with the greater part of the towns of Basseterre, Old Road, and Sandy Point. Three fourths of the inhabitants of the island live in houses but a few feet above the level of the sea, built on land sloping very gently or in a basin, as is more or less the case with a considerable part of Basseterre. Appended to this report will be found a copy of three letters I have received from Mr. Merritt, captain of the "Catharine Elizabeth," Mr. Quin, the sub-treasurer, and Mr. Auld, a merchant, all of whom remarked a peculiar mist over the town of Basseterre, especially the low parts, just at the time the Cholera first made its appearance. Such an unusual phenomenon at such a time is, to say the least of it, an exceedingly curious coincidence.

There does not appear to be any locality in the island which has escaped attack, and of the localities attacked, the following gives the different rates of mortality for each :—

TABLE V.

	Population at Outbreak corrected.	Total Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths to Population.
St. George, Basseterre -	6,800	1,450	—
Salt Ponds - -	—	33	21·35
St. Peter, Basseterre -	2,198	315	—
Palmetto Point - -	1,128	164	14·33
Middle Island - - }	2,465	{ 177 }	19·10
Old Road - - - }		{ 295 }	
Sandy Point - -	3,730	564	15·10
St. Paul's - - -	1,633	116	7·10
Dieppe Bay - -	2,612	227	8·69
Nichola Town - -	1,862	214	11·49
Cayon - - -	2,110	365	17·29
TOTAL - -	24,538	3,920	15·92

The generally more salubrious and healthy parishes of Saint Paul and Saint John are those in which the rate of mortality is much the smallest.

In the town of Basseterre and parish of Saint George's the numbers dying in the several localities are:

Albert's Village - - -	37	Kitt Stoddarts - - - -	32
Bakers' Corner - - -	51	Liverpool Row - - -	3
Beach, the - - -	2	La Gueritte Estate - - -	1
Blake's Estate - - - -	1	Lozacks Village - - -	3
Bluff Point - - -	1	Nevis Street - - -	30
Buckley's Village - - -	14	New Town - - -	272
Camp Estate - - -	2	Pall Mall Square - - -	5
Carney's Village - - -	14	Pond Village - - -	4
Cayon Street - - - -	66	Prickly Pear Alley - - -	72
Church Street - - -	6	Rawlins' Mornes Estate - -	1
College Street - - -	119	Rosemary Lane - - - -	4
College Village - - -	7	Shadwell Village - - -	11
Cross Street - - -	2	Sheer Lane - - - -	23
Cuningham Hospital - -	10	Soho - - - -	19
Fort Street - - -	11	Taylor's Village - - - -	24
Frigate Bay Estate - - -	1	Temple, the - - -	24
Gaol, the - - - -	5	Treasury Alley - - -	1
Golden R. Village - - -	10	Victoria Road - - -	6
Gut, the - - - -	58	Watsons' Alley - - -	1
Greenland Village - - -	12		
Hams Road - - - -	1	Total from St. George's - -	1,450
Hazells Land - - - -	4	From St. Peter's parish - -	31
Hospital, Cholera - - -	256		
Irish Town - - -	144	Total buried at the Crawl - -	1,481
King's Ground - - -	80		

In the accompanying plan of the town the number of deaths are inserted against the several streets, &c. in which they occurred.

By the following table of the rate of mortality of those at the different ages it will be seen that, as is generally the case, the elderly people have suffered much more from the epidemic than the younger:

TABLE VI.

	Under 5 Years.	5 and under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 30.	30 and under 40.	40 and under 50.	50 and under 60.	60 and under 70.	70 and under 80.	80 and under 90.	Above 90.
Death per Cent. to living -	5·99	6·45	6·51	7·25	7·55	10·98	12·65	13·58	23·96	28·34	22·7	37·77
or about -	1 in 17	1 in 15	1 in 15	1 in 14	1 in 13	1 in 9	1 in 8	1 in 7	1 in 4	1 in 3	1 in 4	2 in 5

The rate of mortality progressively increased with an increase of age pretty regularly up to the age of sixty, when the proportion of deaths to the living became greatly augmented, so much so that more than one fourth of the population above that age have

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been carried off; from birth to fifteen years of age about one in fifteen, from fifteen years to sixty years one in ten, and above sixty years of age one in four of the population have died. These relative proportions do not differ much from those in European countries.

Of the seat of cholera and its treatment nothing occurred to alter the opinion I have before expressed upon the subject; the total arrest of the whole absorbent system when collapse supervenes must, with our present knowledge of medicine, render the treatment of this stage of this disease most disheartening. Few who have had the treatment of such cases will be disposed to claim much credit for success. All must deplore their utter inability to combat successfully with any degree of certainty this stage of the disease, especially in the black and coloured population, when, after having apparently even brought them through this stage, they too often rapidly sink from their physical powers being wholly unable to withstand the shock, and the system to rally. In the earlier stages of the disease, if proper attention be paid, great success will attend the efforts of the attendant; if once the liver be brought into action a cure may be relied upon. The success I met with in the treatment I was enabled to carry out in the island of Saint Vincent during the later period of the outbreak induced me to recommend the same to be followed in this island, and when fairly and properly applied I have invariably heard of its great success. During the first period of the outbreak, as has been stated above, the attacks are always more rapid, and these are often unaccompanied with the premonitory diarrhœa, at all events for any length of time, the patient rapidly passing through the various stages, when the mortality is necessarily great; but if the patient, upon the first appearance of diarrhœa, is enabled to procure the necessary remedy, the disease was at once arrested by a dose of calomel combined with Dover's powder, followed by an aperient of compound extract of colocynth, which is far preferable if to be procured than castor-oil. The diarrhœa if cholera cannot be permanently checked by astringents or sedatives, by the administration of which much valuable time, if it be cholera, is lost. There can be no doubt of this fact, and it is much to be regretted that this line of practice was unfortunately promulgated some years since by authority. Fortunately the treatment of diarrhœa by calomel and aperients is not only a remedy in the event of its arising from cholera, but also if it should arise otherwise. The diarrhœa of cholera itself would appear to be an effort of nature to relieve herself. In the subsequent stages the presence of calomel in the stomach is an essential ingredient to success.

The rapid nature of the disease renders it necessary that a constant watch be kept for its appearance, and the great utility of a proper system of house to house visitation, especially where medical assistance was so limited as it is in these islands, necessarily engaged my early attention. Whether the panic produced by the great mortality or some other cause had operated I do not know, but on my arrival I found the house to house visitation by no means satisfactory, and it was necessary at once to re-organize the staff for this purpose in the town of Basseterre; subsequently the duty being efficiently performed by the persons selected, added to the assiduous attention of Dr. Dyett and Mr. Beard, between whom the medical care of this town was divided, the confidence of the people was soon established, and much good I am convinced resulted from the regularity with which the visitation was carried on, and the consequent prompt administration of the proper remedies.

I also early found the necessity of supplying the house to house visitors, the managers of estates and others, with medicines and simple rules for their guidance. I consequently drew up prescriptions for some few medicines, to be used in the absence of any medical attendant, and sent a copy to the several medical men of the island, and the dispensers were directed to furnish these medicines to every applicant. Every house to house visitor throughout the island was furnished with the medicines as speedily as possible, and likewise with printed directions, a copy of which and also of the prescriptions are appended to this report. The directions were distributed also amongst the managers and overseers of the several estates, and the clergymen and ministers throughout the island.

In all this I received the most cordial co-operation from the Board of Health, whose exertions to meet the outbreak I found had been, from the very outset unceasing, and the arrangements of a most liberal character. Upon the chairman of the Board of Health, his honour the Chief Justice, Mr. Aston Davoren, devolved an amount of labour which few persons would have been physically enabled to accomplish. Prior to my arrival the chief weight of the arrangements fell upon him alone, and to his activity and exertions, I am satisfied, all owe a heavy debt of gratitude. The assistance afforded to the chairman by Mr. Quin deserves mention, the order and regularity with which the interments at the "Crawl" took place was solely owing to the energetic superintendence of this gentleman, without which much delay and mischief might have arisen; and to another member, Mr. Udall, are the poor indebted for the able manner in which he exerted himself in the distribution of food to the necessitous. This most essential branch of the labours of the Board of Health during the epidemic was entirely arranged and carried out under the judicious personal superintendence of this gentleman, involving much labour and trouble.

The Board of Health as at present constituted, like all such Boards in the West Indies, is composed of too large numbers for practical purposes. The composition seems to have been made rather with a view to obtain the co-operation of some member in the several parishes than for working purposes. The placing the medical men also upon the Board as members seems to be a mistake, as it must necessarily interefere greatly with their useful-

ness; they would have been much more beneficially employed in the attendance on the sick, than by spending three or four hours at the Board of Health.

As the epidemic is now passed, it may not be amiss to consider the constitution of this body, and to put the Board upon a permanent footing. I would strongly urge the necessity of placing at the head a paid, and therefore a responsible chairman, who alone should form a quorum, and who, together with a secretary, might be intrusted with the duties of superintending the general sanitary regulation, so necessary to be persevered in for the future. The experience of such persons would, in the event of any sudden outbreak of disease, save much of the expense which, from want of any prior experience, necessarily took place during the Cholera. The Board might consist of the paid chairman, and some three honorary members, of which, as involving the outlay of money, the Speaker of the House of Assembly and a member of the Legislative Council might form two such members of the Board (with the exception of the Speaker of the House of Assembly), and the Secretary being appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor.

I am given to understand that, in as much as such appointments would not employ the whole time of the persons appointed, a salary of 180*l.* for the chairman would command the services of a person of position and possessing judgment and experience, and for the secretary 150*l.* would be required When such a Board should be appointed, it would be necessary to pass some well digested sanitary measure for the island, giving general powers to the Board under ordinary circumstances, and especial powers in cases of emergency, such latter powers to be called into operation for short periods, as occasion might require, by an order of Lieutenant-Governor. The permanent services of a Board of Health so constituted would be of great benefit at all times in carrying out sanitary arrangements, and would be of incalculable advantage to the colony in any emergency.

Many great evils, especially in the towns and villages, might be remedied by a building act, whereby the proper construction of dwellings, and the crowding together of them, might be entirely controlled, without any serious injury or interference with the rights of any person. I would suggest an enactment by which, in order to ensure proper ventilation, no buildings should be erected by any one on more than one third of any plot of land he possessed; that no house should be built with any vacancy below it when the space between the ground and floor of the building was not at least six feet, and that the fence by which it was surrounded did not exceed a certain height, together with other powers necessary for ensuring the proper building and arrangement of streets, gutters, sewers, or cesspits. The evils connected with improper buildings and their arrangement are very great in some parts of the towns and villages. In Basseterre, the parts called Newtown, Irishtown, and Prickley Pear Alley are especially objectionable, and if a clearance could be effected here by a small outlay, by purchasing up and pulling down some of the houses, it would be extremely desirable. The land might be re-sold to erect proper buildings, subject to the restrictions pointed out, and the money be again available for a like purpose; in this manner a small fund in the first instance might be made to effect great good. The execution of these powers granted under a building act might be intrusted to the Board of Health.

The question of a good and proper supply of water to the inhabitants of Basseterre I find has already engaged the attention of the Legislature of the island, and this good work is now being carried out; this will, hereafter, be a source of revenue, and the control and direction of the business incidental to the waterworks might likewise be intrusted to the Board of Health contemplated.

Important as the foregoing questions are, a much more serious serious subject than either of them deserves the most attentive consideration of the public, viz., the question of medical attendance, and the present paucity of medical men. Unless some steps be taken to induce medical men to settle or remain in the island, their absence will be most seriously felt. In the time of slavery, the owners of slaves on every estate paid the medical men of the district a dollar or a dollar and a half per head per annum for medicines and attendance. Upon the abolition of slavery this payment by the proprietors was given up, and the labourers left to find their own medical attendant. The result has been, that either from the habit of having had this found them gratuitously, or from a natural dishonesty of character, or from a want of forethought, the black and coloured people seldom think of paying a medical bill. The effect of such a state of things is, the gradually diminishing number of resident medical men, for they find it impossible to obtain sufficient money to meet the most frugal expenditure. The labouring population will pay nothing, and those above that class are not numerous enough to make the practice in any locality an inducement to settle or remain, when once the difficulty of procuring the means of subsistence comes upon the medical man. Hence all suffer, and will do so more than hitherto; both the labourer and the class who can afford to pay for professional services will be left without any qualified medical attendant whatsoever, much less a choice, unless some means are provided other than at present exist. The wisdom of expending large sums in the importation of labourers is not very apparent, whilst those already on the spot are left unprovided with the means of preservation against the attacks and ravages of sickness and disease. The Legislature seems to have felt this evil, for I find that during the past year the sum of 100*l.* each, to five medical men, has been granted out of the public funds, for the payment of medical attendance on the children of the poor under nine years of age. The result of even so small a bounty had the effect of inducing two

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medical gentlemen to settle in the island, and thus made an addition to the general medical staff; some dissatisfaction it is true, whether just or not, has been expressed as to the attendance under this bill; but the fault is not so much in the principle of the measure as it is in the want of some person or body to ensure, by proper constant superintendence, the efficient working of the law. The amount granted for the attendance on the children, it is very evident, will not retain in the island the services of gentlemen for any period, nor can it be expected that an amount sufficient to secure this object can be granted out of the Island Treasury. I would therefore suggest a mode of payment to medical men for their attendance upon the labouring population which would at once furnish a sufficient amount of money to command the settlement in the several districts of the island of properly qualified medical men, and ensure the best available means of preserving the lives of those who labour on the soil, and without whom the land itself is worth little, at the same time it would secure to those in more affluent circumstances the presence in their locality of medical men, whose services they might be able to avail themselves of in case of sickness overtaking themselves or their families.

All attempts at voluntary medical clubs hitherto have been more or less a failure, and I would therefore make them compulsory by legislative enactment, by rendering it imperative on the employer of weekly or daily labour to deduct at the rate of one penny per week from the wages, and to pay such sum into a general medical fund. This would in no one year exceed a dollar deducted from the labourer's wages for his medical attendance, and in the aggregate would create a considerable amount. This is the system adopted by the proprietors of mines, factories, &c. in England, to provide for the medical attendance on those in their employ. As labour, however, is there abundant, they are enabled to insist upon an agreement to a deduction for this purpose as a condition of employment; but it would be necessary in this island, where labour is, and must always be, more or less scarce, as also owing to the nature of the circumstances, to make such a deduction one of legal enforcement. I am disposed to think from inquiries I have made that such a system would not be objected to either by master or servant, and any small objection in individual cases would die away when the benefits derived are discovered upon the system being brought into operation. It avoids the evils of being a charitable donation, and although it would be a compulsory payment, nevertheless the labourer would feel that his medical attendance was a right purchased by his own money. The payment should be certified by the employer, and thereupon the right accrue to seek the advice of any medical gentleman he might desire, although in case of attendance at his own home it would be necessary to restrict him to the one appointed to the district in which the patient resided. By the Census, it appears that there are 7,500 labourers, and 1,200 domestics, who would contribute to such a fund,—in round numbers, probably about 8,000 persons,—which would thus give about £8,000, or 1,666*l.* yearly, as the sum collected. I should suggest the re-arrangement of the present medical districts into six instead of five, creating a new one for Nichola Town, and extending the Dieppe Bay district more in the direction of St. Paul's, and the Cayon one more towards Basseterre. The medical fund should be equally divided between the districts, and would then give, added to the 500*l.* public money granted for attendance upon the children under nine years of age, about 350*l.* for each of the districts. This, together with any sum which might accrue from attendance on other persons in the locality, would be such as to ensure the settlement in the island of competent and well-qualified parties.

The arrangement and superintendence of all this should be with the Board of Health, and to them should be made weekly returns of the attendance, more especially the attendance upon the children. Any complaints against the medical attendant would be made to the Board of Health, and I would suggest that power of suspension in cases of proved neglect or irregularity should be placed in the hands of the Board, who should thereupon make a written report to the Lieutenant-Governor, in whom alone should rest the power of dismissal. These powers would be similar to those possessed in England by Boards of Guardians, who have the power of suspending their officers, but the dismissal rests with the Poor Law Board. No doubt great benefit would result if, in the general superintendence, in respect to this as well as sanitary matters generally, the Board and the Lieutenant-Governor were enabled to avail themselves of the services of some independent medical man; but unless a permanent General Medical Inspector for the West Indian Islands be appointed such would be impossible. The advantages to be derived from this scheme of medical attendance, by as it were a compulsory medical club, would be much aided by a supply of medical necessaries during illness; and it might not be objected to that, under these circumstances, the general public should so far aid the subscribers to this fund by contributing such comforts and food as might be required, upon the written order of the medical man, during his attendance only, subject to proper rules and regulations; should this be acquiesced in, some proper person could be appointed by the Guardians of the Poor in each of the several parishes to receive and execute the orders given.

A proper registration of Births and Deaths, with the cause of death certified by the medical men, would, under the system of attendance suggested, be easily effected. The Chairman of the Board of Health might be appointed Registrar General, and quarterly returns made to him.

It has been suggested to me, that the services of the Chairman of the Board of Health might be also rendered available in auditing the public accounts before they are presented to the Committee of Public Accounts.

Such is a hasty, and necessarily a slight, sketch of requirements which seem to me to demand immediate and serious attention. The details would be easily arranged, if the principle be conceded, in any or all of the measures pointed out, and I feel confident the inhabitants of the island, as a body, would all feel the benefit which would result from the very small outlay of public funds which is involved in these suggestions.

In conclusion I have only to add, that finding the duties that had engaged my time so fully during the pressure of cholera had somewhat abated, and the suggestion of obtaining a census having resulted in the issuing of a commission by your Excellency for this object, I have more recently been enabled to devote my attention to arranging and drawing up tables from the returns. A copy of the result of these labours was appended to the report of myself and brother commissioners, which has already been forwarded to your Excellency.

I have, &c.

THOS. H. COOPER.

COPY of LETTERS referred to.

On board the Catharine Elizabeth, St. Kitts,
SIR, February 26th, 1855.

IN answer to your inquiries as to the peculiarity in the atmosphere which I observed from my ship in the bay at the beginning of November last, I have to state, that it took place some four or five days before the commencement of cholera in Basseterre, but I cannot charge my memory with the precise day; it had the appearance of a thin bluish transparent haze over the town, and although I had been riding at anchor, awaiting a cargo, since August last, I had never observed anything of the kind before, nor have I since that period. At the time, I remember, it was quite a dead calm, scarcely any wind at all.

Your obedient Servant,
PETER MERRETT, Captain.
T. H. Cooper, Esq., Medical Inspector. EDWARD HENARE, Chief Officer.

MY DEAR SIR, Basseterre, St. Kitts, 28th February 1855.

WITH reference to our conversation and my remarks on the strange appearance of the weather in the early part of November last past, I must regret being unable to furnish you with precise information on the subject. I recollect it to have been about the first days of the outbreak of the cholera, but I cannot speak positively as to dates, when I observed that the town, more particularly that portion known as New Town, when viewed from the high land at the opposite western extremity of Basseterre, appeared to be covered with a light thin haze. I have before observed, at a very early hour in the morning, a mist approaching it in appearance, but which quickly disappeared with the rising sun; but in the present instance it was not so, but the vapour continued to hang over the town during the whole day. The weather at the time was very calm, the light air that did exist being from the usual quarter, East. I regret not having made more particular observation at the time, and beg to remain,

My dear Sir,
yours truly,
T. H. Cooper, Esq., Medical Inspector. WM. QUIN.

MY DEAR SIR, Basseterre, 28th February, 1855.

Having passed the day with a friend resident in a somewhat elevated part of the island, I had an opportunity of observing to advantage the peculiar appearance of the atmosphere, to which you refer as having been noticed by others, on the Thursday immediately preceding the outbreak of cholera.

A thick palpable light grey cloud, similar to a fog bank, hung over the margin of the land, apparently motionless, although the usual fresh breeze was blowing, and all around the sky was comparatively clear; early in the morning a similar appearance might not have attracted observation, but this was at bright noonday, nor at the moment did I attach more importance to it than I would have done to any of the peculiar atmospheric appearances occasionally presenting themselves to the eye, but since the outbreak of cholera, two days after, I have, whether rationally or not, always associated it with the epidemic.

I am yours very truly,
T. H. Cooper, Esq., Medical Inspector. R. C. AULD.

ST. KITTS.

Appendix No. 2. in No. 20.

The REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS for taking the CENSUS, January 1st 1855, together with the ANALYTICAL TABLES.

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Saint Christopher.

(L.S.) By his Excellency Edward Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Leeward Islands, administering the Government of the Islands of Saint Christopher and Anguilla, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

E. H. Drummond Hay.

To Archibald Paull Burt, esquire, Attorney General, Thomas Henry Cooper, esquire, Medical Inspector General, and James Udall, esquire, Justice of the Peace.

WHEREAS, amid the dispensations of Almighty God, the population of this island hath been visited with epidemic disease, which hath proved fatal to the lives of great numbers of the people:

And whereas it is desirable and right that measures should be taken to ascertain the number of the survivors:

I, reposing full trust and confidence in your fidelity, discretion, and integrity, have authorized and appointed, and do by these presents authorize and appoint, you, the said Archibald Paull Burt, Thomas Henry Cooper, and James Udall, my commissioners, to make full and diligent inquiry on this head.

And I hereby authorize you the said commissioners to adopt such measures, and to make such arrangements for the accurate enumeration of the population of this island, as by you shall be deemed most convenient and appropriate, and least likely to cause distress or annoyance to the people, or to render necessary any considerable outlay of the public funds, now sorely exhausted.

And whereas it is necessary for the accuracy of the said enumeration that it should be made on one and the same day throughout the island, you are by these presents required to cause the said enumeration to be accomplished on the night of the thirty-first day of December instant, or on the morning of the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

And I do by these presents grant to you, or any one of you, full power and authority to call to your aid, in the fulfilment of the trust hereby reposed in you, all such persons in connexion with the public service of the colony as shall by you be judged necessary.

And I do by these presents further call upon all Her Majesty's subjects in this colony to be aiding and assisting you, by every means in their power, to carry into effect the object of this my commission.

And for the purpose of further aiding you, the said commissioners, in the execution of these premises, I hereby appoint Joseph King Wattley, esquire, barrister-at-law, to be secretary to this commission.

You will from time to time report to me all and every of the several the proceedings of yourselves had by virtue of these presents, together with such other matters, if any, as may be deserving of my consideration touching or concerning the premises. And on

the completion of the duty with which you are by these presents charged you will report to me the final result of your inquiry.

Given at Government House, St. Christopher, this twenty-second day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

By his Excellency's command,
R. Murray Rumsey,
Colonial Secretary.

Report.

To his Excellency Edward Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Leeward Islands, administering the Government of the Islands of Saint Christopher and Anguilla, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

We, the Commissioners appointed by your Excellency, having completed the census of the population, now respectfully submit the accompanying eight tables, containing the result of our labours.

On receipt of the commission we deemed it advisable to obtain the assistance of some gentlemen in each of the parishes whose local knowledge and experience would secure the accuracy of the district enumerations; we therefore addressed to—

Mr. Quin, Saint George, Basseterre,
Mr. Hardtman, Saint Peter, Basseterre,
Mr. Boon, Trinity, Palmetto Point,
Mr. Willson, Saint Thomas, Middle Island,
Mr. Cox, Saint Ann, Sandy Point,
Mr. Diggens, Saint Paul, Capisterre,
Mr. Gould, Saint John, Capisterre,
Mr. Tudor, Christ Church, Nichola Town,
Mr. Mumford, Saint Mary, Cayon,

the following circular:—

"Sir, Basseterre, 22d December 1854.

"It is proposed to take advantage of the opportunity which will be afforded by the approaching holidays to make a census of the population of the island, and to accomplish, by voluntary services, an object so desirable to the agricultural interest. The scheme is, that an influential person shall be requested to take charge of each parish, and to procure an enumeration of the inmates who slept in each habitation on the night of Sunday, the 31st of December, to be made at break of day on the first day of January next.

"To effect this, such person is requested immediately to secure the services of the several managers and overseers of the estates within the parish, and they in their turn are requested forthwith to enlist the services of all constables, tradesmen, and other intelligent parishioners, so that each manager or overseer may to his own satisfaction obtain, by such aid, a correct account of the persons resident on the estate or location superintended by him; and the General Director, on receipt of these several returns from the different managers, after they shall have been filled up on the morning of the 1st of January, is requested, after examination, to forward the same to the Commissioners, at the Court House, Basseterre, for the general compilation of this desirable work.

"The General Director of the parish is also particularly requested to obtain the services of a sufficient number of persons to act as enumerators in the several villages in his parish to ensure accuracy.

"You are particularly requested to undertake the duties of General Director for the parish of .

"So soon as the necessary forms are printed, they will be forwarded to you for distribution among all persons whom you may procure to act within your parish.

"We have, &c.
"Archd. Paull Burt,
"Thos. H. Cooper,
"Jas. Udall,
} Commissioners."

We also addressed a similar circular to the several proprietors, managers, and overseers of estates throughout the island, requesting them to co-operate with the gentleman selected to superintend the enumeration of their respective parishes, and immediately to place themselves in communication with them. To the ready and energetic exertions of those to whom we thus appealed we are indebted for the accuracy of the enumerations from which our compilations have been made. In every quarter we met with the desired assistance.

The population, on the morning of the 1st January, we find to be,—

Males -	- 9,525
Females -	- 11,216
Total -	- 20,741

ST. KITTS.

This amount, compared with the last census taken in 1844, (Table vii.) presents an apparent decrease of the population in every parish, with the exception of Saint John, Capisterre, which has increased 223. The facts connected with this part of the inquiry will be found more fully set forth in Table viii., wherein will be seen added to the total population in June, 1844, the increase which has taken place since that period, viz.; first, by the excess of births over the deaths up to the period of the visitation of epidemic cholera in November last; and secondly, the amount of immigrants from Madeira and England, and also the liberated Africans sent to the Island by Her Majesty's Government.

When the deaths from cholera are added to the number of the present population we yet find a considerable deficiency. The deaths from cholera to the 31st December, inclusive, amounted to 3,830; the excess of births over the ordinary deaths being 3,037; a fact otherwise so satisfactory (the assumed annual increase of population in England being 1 per cent.) is unfortunately counterbalanced by the loss in population from cholera, which has taken away 793 more than the increase arising from the excess of births over the deaths in the island for the 10½ years since the census was taken in 1844. The total decrease, however, exceeds this number by 1434, being altogether 2,227. Whether this decrease is the result of emigration, or the consequence of the faulty system under which the census was taken in 1844, we are unable to ascertain. We have good reason to believe that errors, by which the amount of the population was materially enhanced, did occur in 1844, and that the mode in which the enumerations were then made afforded no opportunity for corrections. We are also aware that some of the labouring population have left this island, allured by mercenary emissaries to neighbouring colonies, under promise of higher wages, and although many have returned, we have no clue by which we can trace the number of departures and of returns.

We are, therefore, necessarily forced to abandon further inquiry on this interesting subject, leaving it matter of incertitude how many of the numerals 2,227, set forth in Table viii., are caused by errors in the former enumerations, and how many by emigration. It may, however, be stated as the result of our inquiries on this point, that during the past three or four years the number of labourers leaving this island has been inconsiderable compared with prior years, and that the emigrants find the prospects held out to them not realized, and have been returning in numbers about equal to those annually emigrating.

The difficulty we have experienced in our efforts to ascertain the number of emigrants arises in consequence of the transport of labourers from this island being carried on illicitly, in contravention of the provisions of the "Passengers Act;" numbers of persons are crowded together in small vessels, inadequately found, and destitute of all necessary arrangements for carrying passengers. The greatest vigilance of the authorities proves ineffectual to check this species of illegal traffic, which appears to be carried on by emissaries, generally persons of a low order, dressed in fashionable array, with a gaudy display of tinsel ornaments, who are left on the island for a time to work upon the credulity of their dupes. A vessel, at an appointed hour of the night, hovers about some unfrequented part of the coast, and thus the embarcation is effected without risk of detection.

We learn that many obligations are thus evaded, and that these periodical opportunities are rendered available by the depraved, to leave a wife and numerous children, aged and infirm parents, and, very frequently, deluded creditors, each in turn to bewail these secret deportations. Although the comparative comfort of the labouring population of this island is a guarantee against any extensive success attending the pursuit of these illicit proceedings, yet in this community, in common with all others, persons will periodically be found ready to avail themselves of opportunities of secretly withdrawing from existing legal and moral obligations, which they deem onerous and distasteful.

By Table I. the population is given in quinquennial periods, and in reviewing this table your Excellency will be gratified to recognize the large number of youth in proportion to the whole population:

	Under 15.	From 15 to 60.	Above 60.
Males - - -	4,185	4,921	419
Females - - -	4,248	6,211	757
	8,433	11,132	1,176

Those under fifteen years of age being two fifths of the whole population. A considerable excess of females over the male population is commonly the case in the West Indian Colonies, but one sixth more females than males, as appears by the table, seems large.

While looking over Table II. our attention is drawn to the undue and lamentable number of seamstressess which it exhibits. The large mass of this class it appears are

domiciled in and about the towns of Basseterre and Sandy Point. We feel that these figures call for some explanation, and it is furnished in the fact that many able-bodied and strong young women, having no visible means of support, have reported themselves as seamstresses, and thus, on their own assertion, have been enumerated with this industrial class of the population. In this table of occupations, we have taken no account of children under ten years of age, nor of those persons returned as permanently disabled from age, sickness, or corporal injuries. It is also proper to remark that we find the age at which labour is discontinued is not very generally under seventy-five years, indeed many older persons we find employed as cattle minders or herdsmen.

We should also draw attention to the fact, that in the same table, under the head "Unoccupied," is included many of the most busy of the population. We experienced a difficulty in the classification of a large portion of the female population; and under this head, "Unoccupied," we have been obliged to enumerate the wives and other female members of families who are not engaged in any manual or scientific labour. Under the denomination "Unoccupied" is also included all persons at school, above ten years of age.

By the various other tables, we have endeavoured to furnish such information, parochial and otherwise, as the means at our command enabled us to attain, sparing neither time nor labour in our efforts to render the information, so readily and gratuitously afforded to us, as generally useful as possible.

Should your Excellency, in these our labours, recognize the cause of the delay in furnishing our report, and deem the completion of our work a satisfactory execution of the trust confided to us, we and our co-operators will therein acknowledge our ample reward.

In conclusion we report, that the total expenses incurred in the execution of your Excellency's commission amount to the sum of 33*l.* 10*s.* 1½*d.*, made up of the following items:—

	£	s.	d.
Printing	31	16	6
Stationery	1	5	3½
Messengers	0	8	4
	33	10	1½

We have, &c.

ARCHD. PAULL BURT,
THOS. H. COOPER,
JAS. UDALL,
} Commissioners.

Table I.—Ages

Of the Total Population, 20,741, Classified in Quinquennial Periods.

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

	MALES.																						FEMALES.												Total.		
	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and under 10.	10 Years and under 15.	15 Years and under 20.	20 Years and under 25.	25 Years and under 30.	30 Years and under 35.	35 Years and under 40.	40 Years and under 45.	45 Years and under 50.	50 Years and under 55.	55 Years and under 60.	60 Years and under 65.	65 Years and under 70.	70 Years and under 75.	75 Years and under 80.	80 Years and under 85.	85 Years and under 90.	90 Years and under 95.	95 Years and upwards.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and under 10.	10 Years and under 15.	15 Years and under 20.	20 Years and under 25.	25 Years and under 30.	30 Years and under 35.	35 Years and under 40.	40 Years and under 45.	45 Years and under 50.	50 Years and under 55.	55 Years and under 60.	60 Years and under 65.	65 Years and under 70.	70 Years and under 75.	75 Years and under 80.	80 Years and under 85.	85 Years and under 90.	90 Years and under 95.	95 Years and upwards.	Males.	Females.	Total Population.
Saint George, Basseterre:																																					
Town - - -	269	265	282	203	195	140	129	110	95	66	74	33	24	10	8	8	–	1	–	1	280	321	294	250	323	219	178	174	170	102	132	65	72	27	34	16	25	1	–	1	1,913	2,684	4,597
Estates - - -	40	46	40	41	31	23	14	22	18	12	11	5	5	4	1	3	–	1	1	–	38	47	33	32	19	26	22	20	16	19	14	12	7	2	3	1	2	2	2	–	318	317	635
Hospital - -	8	3	1	4	6	1	2	–	–	4	2	2	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	11	4	4	6	4	3	1	3	1	2	3	2	1	–	1	1	2	1	–	–	37	50	87
Total - - -	317	314	323	248	232	164	145	132	113	82	87	40	31	15	9	11	1	2	1	1	329	372	331	288	346	248	201	197	187	123	149	79	80	29	38	18	29	4	2	1	2,268	3,051	5,319
Saint Peter, Basseterre -	169	145	142	102	76	56	44	43	52	49	36	13	13	4	7	1	3	–	–	1	137	134	119	92	88	69	77	55	48	33	45	13	24	5	15	3	1	1	–	–	956	959	1,915
Trinity, Palmetto Point -	61	81	71	49	34	39	31	22	23	21	16	5	9	6	3	1	1	–	–	–	76	62	51	33	46	52	30	41	18	21	20	11	19	2	5	1	1	2	–	–	473	491	964
Saint Thomas, Middle Island -	160	132	119	108	102	65	46	39	53	38	13	15	20	10	3	7	1	1	–	–	163	134	116	99	96	84	69	54	61	45	38	26	38	18	7	8	3	–	2	1	932	1,062	1,994
Saint Ann, Sandy Point -	221	189	185	169	120	105	75	76	69	56	40	29	27	13	14	8	6	–	–	1	217	234	218	154	193	131	107	121	95	71	80	38	40	23	21	8	10	2	2	1	1,403	1,766	3,169
Saint Paul, Capisterre - -	111	108	98	66	58	54	34	49	34	42	26	8	19	7	9	3	8	1	–	–	113	118	102	69	77	55	49	46	42	37	31	18	22	8	15	9	6	–	2	4	735	823	1,558
Saint John, Capisterre -	200	158	152	105	101	73	54	50	57	38	49	35	36	10	21	4	9	2	–	1	194	144	121	127	114	96	80	72	54	50	51	28	54	15	23	6	13	4	1	1	1,155	1,248	2,403
Christ Church, Nichola Town -	117	138	107	79	59	47	53	36	47	21	29	16	17	5	6	2	–	1	–	–	130	136	114	75	62	67	68	54	36	29	43	14	25	11	9	2	4	–	2	–	780	881	1,661
Saint Mary, Cayon - -	126	126	115	103	80	52	29	44	48	34	20	19	11	6	6	2	2	–	–	–	124	118	141	94	104	53	48	52	49	34	41	20	21	8	13	3	6	2	3	1	823	935	1,758
	1,482	1,391	1,312	1,029	862	655	511	491	496	381	316	180	183	76	78	39	31	7	1	4	1,483	1,452	1,313	1,031	1,126	855	729	692	590	443	498	247	323	119	146	58	73	15	14	9	9,525	11,216	20,741

Table II.—Occupations.

Total Population according to Census - - - - - 20,741
Children under 10 Years of Age, the Aged and Disabled - - - - 6,352

Total Persons classified - 14,389

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

| | MALES. | | |

Table III.—Place of Birth

Of the Total Population - - - 20,741.

[*Census taken 1st January 1855.*]

				WEST INDIAN COLONIES.																						EUROPE.							AMERICA.	
	Saint Christopher.	Africa.	Madeira.	Anguilla.	Antigua.	Barbadoes.	Berbice.	Bermuda.	Demerara.	Dominica.	Grenada.	Jamaica.	Montserrat.	Nevis.	Saba.	Saint Bartholomew.	Saint Croix.	Saint Eustatius.	Saint John.	Saint Lucia.	Saint Martin.	Saint Thomas.	Saint Vincent.	Tortola.	Trinidad.	England.	Scotland.	Ireland.	Denmark.	France.	Germany.	Spain.	British America.	United States.
Saint George Basseterre:																																		
Town - - -	4,066	27	38	71	20	18	2	1	8	7	1	4	5	68	–	34	4	9	1	1	103	6	3	17	16	45	14	2	–	–	3	1	1	1
Estates - -	514	31	25	24	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	2	1	–	–	7	–	1	–	–	15	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hospital - -	68	8	2	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total - -	4,648	66	65	99	22	18	2	1	8	7	1	4	5	74	–	35	6	10	1	1	112	6	4	17	16	62	21	2	–	–	3	1	1	1
Saint Peter, Basseterre - -	1,805	9	50	5	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	1	1	–	14	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Trinity, Palmetto Point - -	846	40	29	10	2	2	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	10	–	1	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	16	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
Saint Thomas, Middle Island -	1,870	44	7	18	1	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	6	–	2	–	1	6	–	–	7	–	10	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Saint Ann, Sandy Point - -	2,937	43	22	48	4	11	–	1	1	–	1	–	5	4	4	8	–	14	–	–	49	–	–	1	–	13	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Saint Paul, Capisterre - -	1,490	23	3	9	8	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	4	–	–	–	7	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	7	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Saint John, Capisterre - -	2,314	27	1	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	6	–	1	–	1	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	20	1	4	1	–	1	–	–	–
Christ Church, Nichola Town -	1,630	12	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	12	–	1	–	–	3	–	–	–
Saint Mary, Cayon - -	1,712	12	7	3	–	4	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	1	–	–	1	–	–	1	1	7	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	–
	19,252	276	184	194	40	52	2	2	10	8	3	5	27	129	4	52	7	36	1	2	179	6	8	28	17	161	30	10	1	3	7	1	2	2

TABLE IV.

ARRANGEMENT in CLASSES of the POPULATION in the several PARISHES

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

SAINT GEORGE, BASSETERRE.

Town.

Males :—		
Occupied	1,156	
Children	534	
Aged	10	
Disabled	13	
No Occupation	200	
	1,913	
Females :—		
Occupied	1,492	
Children	601	
Aged	43	
Disabled	10	
No Occupation	538	
	2,684	
		4,597

Estates.

Males :—		
Occupied	219	
Children	86	
Aged	5	
Disabled	4	
No Occupation	4	
	318	
Females :—		
Occupied	195	
Children	85	
Aged	7	
Disabled	3	
No Occupation	27	
	317	
		635

Hospital.

Males :—		
Occupied	18	
Children	11	
Aged	1	
Disabled	4	
No Occupation	3	
	37	
Females :—		
Occupied	13	
Children	15	
Aged	4	
Disabled	13	
No Occupation	5	
	50	
		87
Total Population, Saint George, Basseterre		5,319

SAINT PETER, BASSETERRE.

Males :—		
Occupied	561	
Children	314	
Aged	2	
Disabled	9	
No Occupation	70	
	956	
Females :—		
Occupied	523	
Children	271	
Aged	5	
Disabled	12	
No Occupation	148	
	959	
Total Population, Saint Peter, Basseterre		1,915

TRINITY, PALMETTO POINT.

Males :—		
Occupied	270	
Children	142	
Aged	2	
Disabled	2	
No Occupation	57	
	473	
Females :—		
Occupied	268	
Children	138	
Aged	4	
Disabled	5	
No Occupation	76	
	491	
Total Population, Trinity, Palmetto Point		964

ST. THOMAS, MIDDLE ISLAND.

Males :—		
Occupied	557	
Children	292	
Aged	9	
Disabled	5	
No Occupation	69	
	932	
Females :—		
Occupied	615	
Children	297	
Aged	14	
Disabled	11	
No Occupation	125	
	1,062	
Total Population, St. Thomas, Middle Island		1,994

SAINT ANN, SANDY POINT.

Males :—		
Occupied	878	
Children	410	
Aged	15	
Disabled	15	
No Occupation	85	
	1,403	
Females :—		
Occupied	1,053	
Children	451	
Aged	23	
Disabled	30	
No Occupation	209	
	1,766	
Total Population, Saint Ann, Sandy Point		3,169

SAINT PAUL, CAPISTERRE.

Males :—		
Occupied	463	
Children	219	
Aged	12	
Disabled	9	
No Occupation	32	
	735	
Females :—		
Occupied	423	
Children	231	
Aged	21	
Disabled	10	
No Occupation	138	
	823	
Total Population, Saint Paul, Capisterre		1,558

ST. KITTS.

TABLE IV.—*continued.*

SAINT JOHN, CAPISTERRE.

Males :—		
Occupied	663	
Children	358	
Aged	16	
Disabled	25	
No Occupation	93	
	1,155	
Females :—		
Occupied	682	
Children	338	
Aged	25	
Disabled	42	
No Occupation	161	
	1,248	
Total Population, Saint John, Capisterre		2,403

CHRIST CHURCH, NICHOLA TOWN.

Males :—		
Occupied	449	
Children	255	
Aged	3	
Disabled	19	
No Occupation	54	
	780	
Females :—		
Occupied	422	
Children	266	
Aged	8	
Disabled	32	
No Occupation	153	
	881	
Total Population, Christ Church, Nichola Town		1,661

SAINT MARY, CAYON.

Males :—		
Occupied	511	
Children	252	
Aged	4	
Disabled	6	
No Occupation	50	
	823	
Females :—		
Occupied	524	
Children	242	
Aged	15	
Disabled	17	
No Occupation	137	
	935	
Total Population, Saint Mary, Cayon		1,758
TOTAL POPULATION		20,741

RECAPITULATION

——	Occupied.	Children under 10 Years.	Aged.	Disabled.	No Occupation.	Total Population.
Males	5,745	2,873	79	111	717	9,525
Females	6,210	2,935	169	185	1,717	11,216
Total	11,955	5,808	248	296	2,434	20,741

TABLE V.

AREA, POPULATION, and HOUSES of the various ESTATES and VILLAGES in the several PARISHES.

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

SAINT GEORGE, BASSETERRE.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Buckley's	187	163	26	29	55	18	—
Buckley's Village	—	—	17	25	42	13	3
Camp	20	13	8	4	12	1	1
College	200	164	27	29	56	14	—
Dewar's	205	174	43	28	71	11	2
Diamond	98	87	14	12	26	5	1
Fort	—	—	4	3	7	1	—
Frigate Bay	182	129	10	8	18	4	1
Greenland	164	135	13	10	23	5	—
La Gueritte	119	95	13	14	27	6	—
Lime Kiln	45	45	3	5	8	1	—
Lucas'	198	118	—	—	—	—	—
Mornes, Earle's	48	30					
Mornes, Rawlins'	233	128	8	4	12	3	3
Mornes, Romney's	94	88					
Olivees	285	152	21	23	44	6	2
Pond	166	132	5	7	12	4	3
Salt Pond	2,315	250	—	—	—	—	41
Shadwell	160	108	66	69	135	34	—
Springfield	27	27	3	—	3	1	—
Taylor's and Lozack's	232	213	37	47	84	19	6
Town of Basseterre Pasture, Waste, &c.	2,149	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7,127	2,248	318	317	635	146	63

SAINT PETER, BASSETERRE.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Bayford's and Blois'	173	111	49	43	92	20	3
Canada Estate and James' Village	609	330	55	68	123	23	1
College Village (Upper)	—	—	30	28	58	15	3
Canarees and Greathead's	817	318	28	24	52	12	—
Douglas'	201	183	180	192	372	72	20
Fancy	132	52	10	7	17	4	—
Fountain	185	110	19	21	40	7	7
Frigate Bay	74	27	—	—	—	—	—
Golden Rock	149	131	47	63	110	26	1
Kitt Stoddart's	10	—	53	57	110	23	3
Lucas'	124	97	11	10	21	5	2
Mardenbro'	87	68	49	48	97	18	4
Milliken's	266	154	46	50	96	19	2
Monkey Hill	136	48	150	146	296	51	10
Needsmust	226	166					
Penny-tenny	186	127	85	66	151	39	3
Clay Hill	133	103					
Priddie Morne's	126	129					
Ogee	101	68	30	29	59	14	—
Parry's	209	174	50	34	84	16	3
Parry's Jib Village	—	—	12	25	37	5	2
Stapleton and Worthington Village	353	190	52	48	100	21	4
West Hope	53	37	—	—	—	—	—
Pasture, Waste, &c.	383	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4,743	2,623	956	959	1,915	390	68

TABLE V.—*continued.*

TRINITY, PALMETTO POINT.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Abbott's Village	—	—	32	39	71	15	11
Boyd's	371	192	53	49	102	19	8
Camp	177	140	—	—	—	—	—
Challenger's Village	—	—	100	98	198	47	6
Church Village	—	—	25	25	50	11	1
Coffin's Village	—	—	43	55	98	17	3
Connoly's	119	59	2	3	5	1	—
Dewar's	44	44	16	8	24	8	—
Duport's (Cottage)	114	97	4	5	9	3	—
Farm	71	64	—	—	—	—	—
Garvey's	51	35	15	19	34	8	—
Hart's (Retreat)	58	51	22	30	52	9	—
Johnson's	177	101	6	7	13	1	—
Mount Pleasant	166	100	—	—	—	—	—
Ottley's Estate and Village	408	162	32	46	78	22	3
Ottley's Ground	—	—	11	11	22	4	—
Point Town	—	—	24	25	49	11	—
Stone Fort	318	152	23	23	46	7	1
Theroulde's	119	73	6	7	13	1	—
West Farm	209	111	42	29	71	16	—
West Farm Village	—	—	17	12	29	6	—
Pasture, Waste, &c.	1,212	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,614	1,381	473	491	964	206	33

ST. THOMAS, MIDDLE ISLAND.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Brimstone Hill	—	—	22	20	42	9	1
Con Phipps	174	136	40	58	98	21	4
Conyers	143	102	35	36	71	15	3
Dewar's (Lynch's)	28	26	—	—	—	—	—
Dry Hill	188	122	9	7	16	2	—
Franks	38	28	—	—	—	—	—
Godwin	512	217	50	41	91	15	3
Halfway Tree	—	—	109	129	238	51	3
Hutchinson's	358	116	10	10	20	4	1
Lambert's	285	162	40	54	94	24	10
Middle Island Village	—	—	77	88	165	34	4
New Guinea	59	—	66	62	128	29	7
Old Road Town	—	—	317	384	701	158	28
Phipps (Chalk Farm)	112	—	—	—	—	—	—
Romney's	385	134	70	74	144	35	9
Vambelle	454	208	2	3	5	1	1
Verchild's	385	216	26	34	60	14	3
Walk	342	288	—	—	—	—	—
Williams	112	78	—	—	—	—	—
Wingfield	714	140	59	62	121	26	4
Pasture, Waste, &c.	1,782	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6,071	1,973	932	1,062	1,994	438	81

TABLE V.—*continued.*

SAINT ANN, SANDY POINT.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Belle Tête	112	77	3	6	9	2	—
Bottom	143	127	19	19	38	10	—
Bourke's (Prospect Hill)	171	140	13	19	32	2	—
Burt's	275	193	7	4	11	2	—
Cranstoun's	447	367	96	91	187	38	—
Farm and Pinnell's	593	353	26	34	60	11	1
Garnier's	44	40	—	—	—	—	—
Guichard's	29	28	—	—	—	—	—
Leigh's	97	93	—	—	—	—	—
Orton's	78	50	—	—	—	—	—
Payne's (Sir Gillies)	237	184	18	17	35	7	1
Payne's	123	88	9	4	13	1	—
Pump	73	64	1	3	4	1	—
Sandy Point Town	—	—	1,199	1,554	2,753	647	78
Somersall's	261	214	12	15	27	4	3
Pasture, Waste, &c.	466	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,149	2,018	1,403	1,766	3,169	725	83

SAINT PAUL, CAPISTERRE.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Belmont	421	316	19	23	42	7	—
Brotherson's	276	205	22	30	52	13	—
Browne's	86	72	7	5	12	2	—
Convent	64	49	9	10	19	5	1
Fahie's	248	152	2	7	9	3	—
Fenton's	109	—	40	41	81	14	1
Glebe	—	—	12	17	29	7	—
Grove	73	56	91	113	204	46	2
Helden's	179	134	51	51	102	19	8
Leigh's	88	83	47	33	80	9	—
Mount Pleasant	266	180	50	65	115	20	—
Nesbitt's and Tullaboddy's	134	124	—	—	—	—	—
Trant's	111	—	5	5	10	1	—
White Flag (Newton's)	100	93	91	106	197	45	18
White Gate	132	116	117	127	244	51	2
Willett's and Johnson's	511	384	172	190	362	81	17
Pasture, Waste, &c.	767	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,565	1,964	735	823	1,558	323	49

TABLE V.—*continued.*

SAINT JOHN, CAPISTERRE.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Belle Vue	113	88	44	58	102	16	2
Bethel	—	—	4	7	11	3	—
Bevon Island	83	53	7	9	16	2	—
Bramble	242	90	58	66	124	28	—
Cifton's	130	109	7	8	15	4	1
Colquhoun's	126	106	87	64	151	28	3
Dieppe Bay Town	—	—	158	176	334	64	26
Dieppe Bay Estate	163	127	18	25	43	7	—
Estridge's (Lower)	146	109	14	25	39	9	—
Geagan's	139	121	28	20	48	8	2
Gibbons'	164	136	55	60	115	26	13
Harris'	239	129	22	16	38	9	—
Hope	287	108	24	30	54	11	—
Houston's	167	133	35	27	62	11	—
Lavingston's	289	183	31	29	60	9	3
Lynch's	185	125	49	66	115	23	—
Mills' (Gerald's)	74	57	15	16	31	6	—
Mercer's	150	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parson's	342	210	135	158	293	68	—
Pogson's	342	123	46	49	95	21	1
Profit	202	137	63	44	107	22	4
Saddler's	346	176	86	115	201	38	5
Stone Castle and Fuilleteau	307	238	113	122	235	38	4
Tabernacle	—	—	56	58	114	25	1
Pasture, Waste, &c.	1,916	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6,152	2,558	1,155	1,248	2,403	476	65

CHRIST CHURCH, NEW TOWN.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Baker's	129	104	64	89	153	32	7
Bourryau's	371	256	72	78	150	29	—
Estridge's Hill	502	328	72	63	135	33	—
Estridge's Hutchisson's Village	—	—	86	95	181	36	2
Lodge	29	22	—	—	—	—	—
Mansion	180	106	77	104	181	39	—
Mills'	225	162	77	83	160	35	9
Phillip's and Molyneux	560	238	247	246	493	90	—
Rose Hill	177	75	—	—	—	—	—
Spooner's	400	112	—	—	—	—	—
Woodley's	335	249	85	123	208	41	10
Pasture, Waste, &c.	1,089	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,997	1,652	780	881	1,661	335	28

TABLE V.—*continued.*

SAINT MARY, CAYON.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Cayon Village - -	—	—	118	129	247	53	3
Cunningham's - -	436	223	45	56	101	23	1
Dalzell's - - -	192	92	12	16	28	5	—
Dupuy's (Hermitage) -	227	169	18	19	37	8	—
Dupuy's Village - -	—	—	40	62	102	14	6
Grange - - -	164	109	58	70	128	20	—
Green Hill - - -	403	259	88	95	183	42	—
Key - - -	113	104	3	6	9	2	—
Lodge and Spring - -	366	198	118	118	236	38	—
Matthew's - -	614	455	46	67	113	23	2
Matthew's Village - -	—	—	89	96	185	33	12
Ottley's - - -	204	111	44	41	85	15	2
Ottley's Village - -	—	—	30	40	70	13	4
Pogson's - - -	103	77	22	17	39	7	—
Spooner's - - -	232	144	28	31	59	13	—
Watkin's Island - -	95	28	—	—	—	—	—
White's - - -	204	109	64	72	136	23	—
Pasture, Waste, &c. - -	243	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,596	2,078	823	935	1,758	332	30

TABLE VI.

RECAPITULATION of TABLES IV. and V.

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

—	AREA.		HOUSES.		POPULATION.									Total Population.
								Permanently Disabled.						
	Total Acreage.	Cane Land.	Inhabited.	Empty.	Occupied.	Unoccupied.	Children under 10 Years.	Old Age.	Accident.	Insanity.	Leprosy.	Incurable Disease.	Total Disabled.	
Saint George, Basseterre:														
Town - -	7,127	2,248	1,096	204	2,648	738	1,135	53	3	4	2	14	76	4,597
Estates - -			146	66	414	31	171	12	3	—	2	2	19	635
Hospital - -			1	—	31	8	26	5	—	5	—	12	22	87
Total -	7,127	2,248	1,243	270	3,093	777	1,332	70	6	9	4	28	117	5,319
Saint Peter, Basseterre	4,743	2,623	390	68	1,084	218	585	7	4	1	5	11	28	1,915
Trinity, Palmetto Point	3,614	1,381	206	33	538	133	280	6	—	—	2	5	13	964
Saint Thomas, Middle Island - -	6,071	1,973	438	81	1,172	194	589	23	2	—	5	9	39	1,994
Saint Ann, Sandy Point	3,149	2,018	725	83	1,931	294	861	38	2	1	10	32	83	3,169
Saint Paul, Capisterre -	3,565	1,964	323	49	886	170	450	33	2	1	—	16	52	1,558
Saint John, Capisterre -	6,152	2,558	476	65	1,345	254	696	41	6	1	12	48	108	2,403
Christ Church, Nichola Town - - -	3,997	1,652	335	28	871	207	521	11	—	—	10	41	62	1,661
Saint Mary, Cayon -	3,596	2,078	332	30	1,035	187	494	19	3	—	5	15	42	1,758
	42,014	18,495	4,468	707	11,955	2,434	5,808	248	25	13	53	205	544	20,741

TABLE VII.

POPULATION in the several PARISHES, according to CENSUS of 1844 and of 1855.

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

	Population, Census 1844.	Population, Census 1855.
Saint George, Basseterre :—		
Town	4,693	4,597
Estates	1,614	635
Hospital	—	87
Total	6,307	5,319
Saint Peter, Basseterre	2,372	1,915
Trinity, Palmetto Point	1,118	964
Saint Thomas, Middle Island	2,426	1,994
Saint Ann, Sandy Point	3,305	3,169
Saint Paul, Capisterre	1,596	1,558
Saint John, Capisterre	2,180	2,403
Christ Church, Nichola Town	1,828	1,661
Saint Mary, Cayon	2,045	1,758
	23,177	20,741

TABLE VIII.

INCREASE and DECREASE of TOTAL POPULATION of 1844 to 1st January 1855.

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

Population according to Census, June 1844			23,177
Immigrants—			
From England			
1845, May	80		
„ July	129		
		209	
From Madeira			
1846, May	81		
1847, July	69		
		150	
Liberated Africans			
1849 April, Sierra Leone	95		
1850, March, St. Helena	130		
		225	
			584
Baptisms from June 1844 to December 31st, 1854		9,952	
Burials do do not including Deaths from Cholera		6,915	
Excess of Births over Deaths			3,037
			26,798
Population according to Census, January 1855		20,741	
Deaths from Cholera to 31st December 1854		3,830	
			24,571
Decrease attributable partly to incorrectness of Census taken in 1844, and partly to Emigration			2,227

ST. KITTS.

Appendix 3 in No. 25.

NUMBER of CONVICTS sentenced to Death or to Imprisonment, or Imprisonment with Hard Labour, during the Years 1852, 1853, and 1854.

CRIMES.

	1852.	1853.	1854.
1*st. Against the Person:*			
Murder.—Executed	—	—	1
Culpable homicide	—	1	1
Assault with intent to murder	—	—	—
Rape or assault with intent	—	—	—
Unnatural offences or attempts	—	—	—
Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm	10	6	9
Assaults	39	38	32
	49	45	43
2*d. Against Property with Violence:*			
House, &c., breaking with intent to steal and theft	5	—	—
Robbery	—	3	—
	5	3	—
3*d. Against Property without Violence:*			
Cattle, horse, and sheep stealing, theft or receipt of stolen goods	173	53	63
Frauds, embezzlement, vagrant act, &c.	2	1	3
	175	54	66
4*th. Malicious Offences against Property:*			
Arson	1	—	—
Other malicious injuries of property	16	3	7
Forgery	—	—	—
	17	3	7
5*th. Other Offences:*			
Abusive language	12	7	13
Aiding prisoners to escape	—	—	—
Conspiracy	—	—	—
Contempt of court	—	—	1
Contract act	9	1	3
Cruelty to animals	—	1	3
Disorderly conduct	66	33	24
Exposing person	3	5	—
Game laws	—	—	2
Merchant Seaman's Act	5	12	—
Perjury	4	1	—
Pound breach	—	1	2
Resisting police	1	—	3
Revenue laws	1	1	—
Sanitary laws	—	1	6
Unauthorized detention of property	1	—	—
	102	63	57
TOTAL CONVICTIONS	348	168	173

NEVIS.

No. 21.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Mackintosh to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 42.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 22, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herein enclosed, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of Nevis for 1854, together with a copy of the Despatch in which it was forwarded to me by the President administering the government.

Amid a good deal that is discouraging in this Report, it is satisfactory to observe that, in spite of the economical results of the late inroad of epidemic cholera, the revenue has maintained itself, and even shows a tendency to increase.

It will be seen to be the enormously disproportionate establishment—which, for instance, includes, for a population of about 9,000 souls, the services of two judges—that is crushing the resources of this little community. The proper remedy for this evil would evidently be an incorporate union of Nevis with her more important neighbour St. Kitts, the capital of which, Basseterre, is placed at about the centre of the area of both islands; but proposals to such effect have never met with any favour in the Legislature of the smaller dependency.

Apart from a step of the kind just referred to, I have presumed Mr. Seymour rightly to indicate the direction in which improvements in the existing fiscal system of the island in which he is directly interested are to be looked for when he invites the Council and Assembly to a consideration of the merits, as applicable to a locality situated as is Nevis, geographically in connexion with her wealthier sister, St. Kitts, of direct taxation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

In No. 21.

Copy of a Despatch from Mr. President Seymour to Governor General Mackintosh.

(No. 21.)

Sir, Nevis, March 15, 1855.

I have the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of Nevis for the year 1854.

2. My service in the island having only extended over a portion of the year which has lately elapsed, I do not feel called upon to furnish any lengthened report on this ocasion.

3. Nevis, which had for some years been almost stationary in the amount of population, revenue, and productions, received a sudden shock by the outbreak of Asiatic cholera towards the beginning of 1854. The Treasury was then drained to meet the expenditure caused by the endeavours to mitigate the ravages of the disease, and by the necessity of burying at the public charge those who fell its victims. The resources in hand were insufficient for these purposes; and when they failed an embarrassing debt had further to be incurred. But the derangement of the finances was not the greatest evil which the cholera inflicted on the island. Nearly one tenth of the population, always too small to press in any way upon the means of subsistence, were carried off, and the colony appeared to be threatened with a disastrous change in its industrial condition.

4. It is satisfactory to have to state, that the anxious previsions of the planters were not realized, as a moderate crop of sugar was taken off without difficulty. Yet this satisfaction is tempered by the reflection that the prompt refilling of

NEVIS.

the ranks of the agricultural labourers must, to a considerable extent, be attributed to a temporary pressure, caused by the circumstance that, while under the dread of infection, the negroes relinquishing their habitual diet of vegetables of almost spontaneous growth, had consumed the pigs and poultry which, in ordinary times, they keep but for sale. The deprivation of this source of income compelled many persons to abandon, for a season, a life of idleness, and return to labour in the cane fields.

5. While, therefore, one cannot but rejoice that no disturbance has yet been created in the labour market, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that a considerable number of the community were, as no doubt a lesser proportion still are, habitually unproductive of any articles of commerce. And the buoyancy of the revenue, which has increased with a diminished population, leads one to believe that the deceased, or those who have since taken their places, bore, heretofore, no share of the public burthens.

6. It is but too clear to me, that many persons contribute nothing towards the revenue. The dwellings of the negroes who, giving up the cultivation of the sugar cane, have retired to abandoned portions of estates, and exist upon the proceeds of the increase of their stock, are often, I regret to say, miserable to a degree which I have rarely seen in any of the other West Indian Islands. No articles of domestic comfort are to be found therein, and the neat furniture of the Antigua negro houses is here exclusively confined to the habitations of the more industrious.

Yet, in the worst of these hovels, as we learn but too often from the records of the Courts of Justice, large sums of money—the profits of former hours of industry—are hid in the ground or in the thatch to tempt the thief; and, as recent experience has shown, to convert the thief into an assassin.

7. I throw upon the present fiscal system the blame of thus causing a proportion of the population, by withdrawing from beneficial labour, to halt in the progress of civilization; or, I fear it is more correct to say, to retrograde towards African darkness. The seeing naked boys tending cattle on the mountain side reminds one more of life in Kaffraria than of the comparatively advanced domestic condition of the negroes, who, in the lower lands, work for wages.

8. The practice followed here, in imitation of larger societies, of making every article pay an import duty on its introduction to this small and impoverished island, keeps the imports down to the supply of the present very limited demand. That demand might, I believe, be immensely augmented by the mere exhibition of articles of European manufacture in the shops; but it will not increase so long as the negro sees no immediate means of obtaining what he wants. Indeed, I cannot see how, under the present system, he is ever to form a just conception of the value of his money, and of the comforts—even luxuries—which it might procure.

9. There is no shop in this island in which a couple of the peasantry, desirous of furnishing a small house on their marriage, would get what they require; consequently, when such an event is in contemplation by persons anxious to preserve a moderate respectability, they have to proceed at considerable inconvenience to some other island to make their purchases.

10. The uncertainty of the supply, and the great fluctuations in the price of flour, necessarily incident to the condition of so small a market, have prevented the lower classes from acquiring the taste for bread and other wholesome food; therefore the reliance for their subsistence is principally thrown by them upon the fruits and vegetables of indigenous growth, which are procurable without money, and almost without exertion.

11. I have, with a view to the removal of the evils of idleness and a carelessness of the decencies of life, recommended to the Legislative Houses the adoption of a system of direct taxation which would enable us to dispense altogether with customs duties. Should they be pleased to adopt this suggestion, we may anticipate that Nevis, with its great natural advantages for trade, will become the depôt of many articles sent out in search of a market.

Emulation would, I think, be created amongst the lower classes for the possession of the productions of European industry. A new idea of the value of money would stimulate to exertion. Free communication with other places would probably cure the evils fostered by the present system of isolation. An increase in the number of visitors would be likely to create a sense of shame in

the idle buriers of coin, and induce them to clothe themselves properly, and to replace the hut of plantain or palm leaves by a healthier habitation.

12. The revenue of 1854 shows an increase of 808*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* over that of the preceding year; yet so large have been the cholera expenses, that the salaries of the public officers have not been paid since the 30th June. Fortunately, however, for them, these gentlemen have, with but one or two exceptions, private resources in land or profession which render them in some measure independent.

13. The instalment and interest due on the loan from Her Majesty's Government have been paid with punctuality.

14. The most important work in legislation has been the passing of an Act to amend the Act of the reign of Queen Anne, under which the House of Assembly was constituted. Under the Act of Queen Anne it was always in the power of one third of the members, by staying away, to prevent the formation of a House, whenever they were opposed to any measure proposed to be brought before them. The object attained by the amendment has been the reduction of the number of the quorum required for the passing of bills, within a limit which renders it impossible that the public business be impeded any longer in this manner by a factious minority.

15. An Act to provide a Government House, as a residence for the officer administering the government, was passed with a limitation to the term of three years. A consideration of the present financial embarrassments, together with other circumstances, have induced me to refrain from drawing on the Local Treasury for the rent thus voted. It has now been intimated that the Secretary of State cannot submit the Act for Her Majesty's approval with its present limitation to the term of three years.

16. Several other Acts of an ordinary nature have also been passed.

17. The increase in the number of deaths is to be attributed to the operation of cholera. The increase in the number of marriages is also partially to be ascribed to the same cause. The near prospect of death lent weight to the heretofore lightly heeded exhortations of the clergy against concubinage.

18. The state of the schools reflects great credit on the ministers of the Church of England, and to the full as much so on the Wesleyan missionaries; particularly as no assistance is granted from the colonial funds. If I might venture to find a fault where there is so much to praise, I would say that the education afforded is hardly common and practical enough. It is somewhat startling to hear the hardest words of the Linnæan vocabulary—names belonging to the natural history, not of these islands, but of Australia or Siberia—coming from lips which have nothing to tell you of the commonest methods by which mechanics in industrious lands earn their bread.

19. It struck me also as peculiar to see that children, like those above alluded to, born without a prospect of inheriting property of any kind, are taught in their very early years, in this place of small trade, to draw out imaginary bills of exchange. This seems like beginning at the wrong end. It would appear to be more regular to begin by teaching them some means of giving future weight and value to their signatures.

20. No improvements have been made in agriculture during the last year. The planters have, however, the prospect of a rather more than average harvest before them, if the supply of labour does not fail.

21. Some alterations have been introduced into the prison regulations which have already proved of benefit. Amongst other changes has been that of regulating the diet of the prisoners according to the amount of laborious exertion to which they are exposed, and thus endeavouring to create in their minds the association of labour with food, and of inaction with comparative abstinence.

22. It is with pleasure that I point out to your Excellency that the almshouse, and the hospital with which it is connected, are maintained at a charge of only 150*l.* a year. This is the total expense to which the colony is put for the relief of the diseased and infirm poor. With the great natural resources of Nevis, and the smallness of its population, it is almost unnecessary for me to say that no able-bodied person is dependant on the public for support.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

Governor General Mackintosh,
&c. &c. &c.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 22.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 22.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Mackintosh to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 43.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 22, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herein enclosed, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of the Virgin Islands for the year 1854, together with a copy of the Despatch in which it has been forwarded to me by the president administering the government.

The effects of the grievous epidemic disease which was prevailing at the commencement of the year made themselves felt throughout its whole course, making the period under consideration one of great pressure on this already much impoverished little community. The public accounts have been in consequence involved in some intricacy; but, with the assistance of Mr. Kortright's clear statement, it is hoped that they will be sufficiently intelligible.

The past year will, I trust, be eventually shown to have been an altogether exceptional one in the annals of the Islands; and I am led, in so far as it is reasonable to speculate at all as to the future in political matters, to indulge in a great measure in such an anticipation by my cordial agreement with the president in his expectation that great advantage may fairly be expected to result from the going into operation of the simple and compact form of government which, with the sanction of the Crown, they have lately adopted. For it will be admitted, I think, by those whose service has lain in tropical dependencies to partake almost of the character of an enouncement of an axiomatic truth to assert that commonly in them the despatch of public business is advanced in an inverse ratio to the number of the parties who participate in its transaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 22.

Enclosure in No. 22.

Copy of a Despatch from C. H. Kortright, Esq., to Governor General Mackintosh.

(No. 11.)

Government House, Tortola,

Sir, March 9, 1855.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, in duplicate, the Blue Book for the past year, 1854.

2. In order to lay before you a clear exposition of the financial condition of the colony at the end of 1854 it will be necessary to enter into somewhat lengthy details, and to take a retrospective view of the state of the Revenue and Expenditure at the close of the year 1853.

3. I have separated the amount of the loan from the actual receipts, viewing it as an extraneous matter, and not strictly connected with the revenue.

4. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

Revenue for 1853.

	£	s.	d.
Amount in Treasury on the 1st January 1853 - -	3	17	8
Revenue collected - - - - -	1,370	0	1¾
Total amount at the disposal of the colony for 1853 -	£1,373	17	9¾

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Amount paid on account of fixed expenditure and miscellaneous civil services	1,372	3	9¾
Amount due on 31st December 1853, principally to public officers	353	18	2¾
	£1,726	2	0½

Arrears at the close of 1853.

	£	s.	d.
For 1852	1,230	6	4¼
For 1853	353	18	2¾
Total arrears	£1,584	4	7

5. This large amount of arrears was due at the end of the year 1853, principally to public officers, who consented to receive the sum of 692*l.* 9*s.* 0¾*d.* in liquidation of their claims, and the sum of 700*l.* was raised for that purpose by a loan from Mr. R. G. Pedder. The arrangements were carried into effect in March 1854, when it was found that it would not be necessary to make use of more than 500*l.* of the loan, the local revenue being in a condition to furnish the balance, viz., 192*l.* 9*s.* 0¾*d.* 200*l.* were returned to the lender, thereby reducing the debt to 500*l.*

6. Revenue for 1854.

	£	s.	d.
Amount in Treasury on 1st January 1854	1	14	0
Amount collected	1,645	3	11
	£1,646	17	11

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Paid on account of fixed expenditure and miscellaneous civil services	1,550	13	9
First instalment of debt of 500*l.*, including interest	70	9	2
Arrears of salaries to public officers for 1854	217	7	11½
	1,838	10	10½
Less in Treasury on 31st December 1854	25	15	0
Total expenditure	£1,812	15	10½

Recapitulation.

	Revenue. £	s.	d.	Expenditure. £	s.	d.
1853	1,373	17	9¾	1,726	2	0½
1854	1,646	17	11	1,812	15	10½

Amount due on 31st December 1854.

	£	s.	d.
To public officers	217	7	11½
To R. G. Pedder on loan	450	18	0
	£668	5	11½

7. The revenue of 1854 exceeded that of 1853 by 273*l.* 0*s.* 1¼*d.*, owing to the unusually large auction returns from the sale of wrecked property. In other respects there is little difference in the amounts collected in each year.

8. The expenditure also exceeds that of 1853 by 86*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, but it must be borne in mind that the sum of 192*l.* 9*s.* 0¾*d.* was paid out of the colonial

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chest on account of arrears of 1853, that 70*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* have been disbursed on account of the loan of 500*l.*, that the gaol has undergone extensive repairs, and that heavy expenses were incurred by the severe visitation of epidemic cholera in the commencement of the year.

Legislation.

9. Four acts only have been passed by the Legislature; the Crown law officer's reports have been forwarded with them to your Excellency from time to time.

10. The only Act of any importance is that to "amend the constitution of the Virgin Islands." Many obstacles were thrown in the way of passing this bill; but these having been overcome, the measure appears to be now generally popular, and I have no doubt the results will prove the wisdom of the step taken by the Legislature.

11. There are now several measures in course of preparation, having for their object the reduction of the expenditure, and the better collection of taxes.

Education.

12. I regret that I am not able to report more favourably of the progress in the important work of education. There has been only one school (at Kingstown) in connexion with the church since the riots in August 1853. The attendance is tolerably good, but I should be glad to see the black people show a more earnest desire to avail themselves of the facilities afforded them for educating their children.

13. I have every reason to believe that at least two more schools will be established during the present year.

14. There is one day school in connexion with the Wesleyans and two or three Sunday schools.

Public Works.

15. The only expenditure under this head is the sum of 104*l.* 7*s.*, for repairing the gaol, which is now in good order.

16 In 1853 the court house, the property of the colony, was destroyed by the rioters; since that period a building has been rented for judicial purposes.

17. Referring to a Circular Despatch of Sir George Grey's on the subject of the government houses in the various colonies, I beg to inform you that no residence is found for the officer administering the government, nor is any allowance made to him for house-rent or furniture.

Crime and Gaol.

18. I have great satisfaction in bringing under your notice the great decrease in the number of prisoners confined in the gaol during the year 1854, not more than 26 persons having been committed. There have been no convictions for offences of a serious nature.

General Remarks.

19. The commencement of the year will be long remembered in the Virgin Islands in connexion with epidemic cholera, from the effects of which the colony has not yet recovered. The dread disease raged to a frightful extent from the 25th December 1853 to March 1854. This small colony laboured under disadvantages not exceeded probably in any other colony. The impoverished state of the Treasury, and the poverty generally of the inhabitants, placed an insuperable obstacle in the way of obtaining sufficient medical aid. The only professional gentlemen in the colony were Doctors Girdlestone and Clutterbuck, the latter the military medical officer.

20. These gentlemen exerted themselves to the utmost of their power, but were unable, from the large demand for their services in the town, to afford that immediate and continuous attention to patients in the country which is so urgently required in Asiatic cholera.

21. No locality appeared to be safe from the inroads of the terrible scourge; it raged alike in the valleys, and on the summits of the highest mountains, whither many persons had fled with the vain hope of eluding its pursuit.

22. The mortality was very great, but so intense was the panic, that no register of the number of deaths was kept, even in the town. A large number of strong able-bodied men fell victims to the disease, thereby depriving the colony of an amount of labour now very much needed.

23. It has also had the effect of very materially increasing the pauper list, many aged and infirm persons, having been deprived of all near relations, have been thrown upon the charity of the county for support.

24. The people appear at present to be perfectly quiet and contented. The recollection of the riots in August 1853 seems to be gradually dying away, and I do not apprehend the recurrence of any scenes of a similar nature.

25. The rural inhabitants appear disposed to purchase small portions of land; and I think we may fairly hope that, when attached to the soil, and having a permanent interest in the country, they may become a more laborious and peaceable community.

I have, &c.

Governor Mackintosh, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

DOMINICA.

No. 23.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Mackintosh to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 12.) Leeward Islands, Antigua, June 16, 1855.

My Lord, (Received July 23, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed to your Lordship in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of Dominica for the year 1854, together with a copy of a Despatch in which it has been forwarded to me by the President administering the government.

2. It is satisfactory to observe that, according to these returns, the value of the exports for the last year exceeded by a considerable amount (78,155*l.* over 58,768*l.*) that of those for the preceding one, while a corresponding excess as to the imports (52,509*l.* over 51,205*l.*) is but a trifling one.

3. The revenue for the year (8,452*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*), according to the same comparative test, shows but little falling off from that which actually accrued during the year 1853, the produce of some newly imposed taxes, of a direct character as to their incidence, having countervailed in 1854 a considerable deficiency (1,003*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*) in that of the Import Duties. The expenditure (8,827*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*), though there appear to be still some outstanding charges, shows a small decrease on that for 1853.

4. It is a promising fact, in connexion with the future prospects of this island, that its establishment continues to be conducted on a scale of expense which, as compared with those of the other islands comprised within this government, is a decidedly moderate one. This being the case, it is further matter of just self-gratulation for the Legislature, that out of such limited means a liberal yearly allowance of 800*l.* has been secured for the support of public education.

5. I regret, however, not to have it in my power to report the taking of any step during the past year towards the liquidation of the debt due by the island to the Imperial Treasury, on account of the advances under the "Hurricane Loan."

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

Copy of a Despatch from President Bremner to Governor Mackintosh.

(No. 70.) Government House, Roseau, June 13, 1855.

Sir,

I have now the honour of laying before your Excellency the Blue Book for this island, in triplicate, for 1854; and the several matters dwelt upon

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appearing to have been well considered by the respective departmental officers, any comment of mine may, I hope, be considered unnecessary.

I beg leave to state to your Excellency that the delay in completing the books is not chargeable to the Colonial Secretary, as so far back as January he advertised that all public functionaries should forthwith furnish him with the duties of their offices, in which he has not wholly succeeded.

I would respectfully beg leave to suggest, if on future occasions the Executive might be empowered to demand directly the several papers required, within a certain period, from all concerned?

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. BREMNER.

His Excellency
The Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

No. 24.

No. 24.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Major-General Hay to the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert.

(No. 60.)

Mauritius, May 3, 1855.
(Received July 7, 1855.)

Sir,

In obedience to standing instructions, I beg leave to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1854, together with the annual report on the general condition and prospects of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES M. HAY,
Major-General.

The Right Hon. Sidney Herbert,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 24.

Enclosure in No. 24.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The balance sheet of the year ended 31st December 1854 exhibits an excess of expenditure over revenue of 5,503*l.* 3*s.* 5¾*d.*, the former having been 372,370*l.* 6*s.* 2¼*d.*, and the latter 366,857*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.*, and this in spite of the addition of sixpence per hundredweight to the export duty on sugar, which took effect on the 1st September, and continued to the end of the year. This measure was rendered necessary in consequence of the lamentable epidemic which reigned during three months of the year, and the high rates of freight for the importation of Coolies.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of the year show an increase on those of 1853, while there is a marked decrease in the value of the exports, owing probably to the great scarcity of shipping outwards. Yet the number of ships which cleared outwards is greater than that of 1853, the numbers being 572 and 512 respectively. This apparent inconsistency is explained by the fact that many of the vessels cleared out, not for Great Britain, but for other destinations where freight was high, and consequently much of the crop remained unshipped at the end of the year. The number of ships entered inwards has also increased from 528 in 1853 to 576 in 1854. The gross exports of the year amounted in value to 1,246,400*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, showing a decrease of 196,811*l.* on the preceding year; while the imports aggregated 1,492,788*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, showing a nearly commensurate increase on those of 1853.

Population.

The most prominent feature in this return is the very large proportion of deaths to births, which is to be accounted for by the great mortality caused by the cholera, which, between the 25th May and the 14th September, carried off

no less than 8,496 souls, of whom the largest proportion belonged to the ex-apprentice class and their descendants. Beyond this disastrous mortality, I do not observe anything which calls for specific remark from me.

Ecclesiastical.

In the Church of England Establishment there have been considerable changes, the most important of which is the retirement of the senior civil chaplain, Mr. Denny, and the appointment of a Bishop in his room. In the month of June the colony was deprived of the faithful and devoted services of the late second civil chaplain, Mr. Banks, who fell a victim to the ravages of the cholera. Up to the end of the year his successor had not arrived. The Establishment was still further weakened by the departure of the Rev. Mr. Fleming, who resigned his situation as military chaplain before the close of the year; so that, if it had not been for casual assistance gratuitously rendered by two clergymen who were passing a short time in the colony, the regular services of the Church must have suffered serious interruption. There is no other change to note in the ecclesiastical establishments of the island.

During the course of the year two more Capuchin Friars (making four in all) settled at Mahé, in the Seychelles group; but they are not paid by Government, nor are they under the spiritual control of the Roman Catholic Bishop at Mauritius.

The members of the Church of England at Mahé are still without a pastor, owing to the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Delafontaine.

Education.

There is little to add on this head to the reports of preceding years. The numerical attendance at the Royal College maintains the average of former years, as does also that at the different Government schools. I take this opportunity of transmitting a report made by the Special Committee of Council on the minute of Governor Higginson, on the education of Indian children, transmitted by General Sutherland in his report on the Blue Book of last year. This able and interesting document, which was drawn up by the Colonial Secretary, was cordially approved by the Council. It so fully enters into the difficulties of this important question, and so clearly points out what is, in my humble opinion, the true remedy for their correction, that I feel that any remark from me would be superfluous as regards what General Sutherland, in his report above quoted, has aptly characterized as "the real educational difficulties of this colony."

Legislation.

Amongst the ordinances passed during last year which merit remark, I would cite that which provides for the general regulation of the Customs, and the two important ordinances, numbered 15 and 21 respectively, providing regulations for the delivery of newly arrived immigrants, and submitting a redemption tax for the monthly payment of 4*s*., formerly obligatory on new immigrants not under contract of service. Ordinance No. 30 provides for the due preservation of the woods, forests, and rivers, a matter of great and daily increasing moment. And ordinance No. 35 filled a great void in the colonial statute book, by making more ample provision for the care of lunatics. I am happy to be able to say that this latter enactment is operating most beneficially.

Grants of Land.

There have been but three grants, or rather leases, of Crown lands during the year, which do not appear to call for any particular remark.

Public Works.

The financial position of Government was so materially affected by the very large immigration of last year and by the expenditure on account of cholera, that it was necessary to postpone the execution of many public works provided for in the estimates: this will account for so few works of importance being borne on the return. Increased accommodation has, however, under the authority of the Secretary of State, been constructed at the immigration depôt, and the additions lately approved are in course of completion at the civil

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hospital. The state of the roads is not altogether satisfactory; but I hope that, with the additions to the Surveyor General's establishment recently authorized, the additional surveillance, which was requisite, will ensure a more exact fulfilment of the duties of the contractors.

Gaols, Prisoners, and Crime.

One great step towards preventing the development of crime has been taken during the last year. I allude to the re-organization of the police force. The new class of Indian constables have been found a valuable adjunct to the force, especially in the repression of vagrancy amongst their countrymen,—an evil which, in addition to the loss it entails on the employer of labour, is fraught with moral and social mischief, and is, I believe, the source and basis of much of the crime of the island. Towards the removal of this monster evil the most strenuous efforts of the Government continue to be directed.

Agriculture and Manufacture.

The crop of last year amounted to 110,000 tons, of which only 33,000 tons were shipped before 31st December 1854. The returns show a considerable increase of land under cultivation as compared with those of 1853, amounting to 12,931 acres. Guano continues to be still used with advantage, though there are some who are inclined to think that it eventually exhausts the soil, and that its employment sacrifices prospective productiveness to the more seductive advantage of a luxuriant present crop.

The vacuum pan and the centrifugal machine are coming into more general use; and in spite of low prices, and the discouraging influence of the imperial differential duty, the quality of sugar made is, I am informed, sensibly improving on the samples of former years.

Immigration.

Whatever difficulties the colony may have had to contend with during the past year, the supply of labour has been dealt out to the planters with no sparing hand. The number of adult male labourers introduced during the year amounts to 13,728, and in addition there were 2,590 women introduced, showing a proportion of about twenty per cent. No pains are spared either by the Government or the emigration agents to increase this proportion, and I hope that their efforts may be crowned with success; but the subject of the disproportion of the sexes has been so recently and so fully brought before Her Majesty's Government, that I feel that any further comment from me would be superfluous.

General Remarks.

In conclusion, I would beg to apologize for the necessarily scanty nature of the present report, which is attributable to the very short period during which I have held the administration of the colony, and my absence from the island during the period to which it refers. But, indeed, the very full report forwarded by General Sutherland last year appeared to render an elaborate one less necessary at my hands; and I have therefore contented myself with making a few cursory remarks on the more salient points which seemed to call for notice, preferring rather to incur the charge of incompleteness than of incorrectness.

CHARLES M. HAY,
Major-General.

Encl. in No. 60.

Education of Indian Children.

7th February 1855.

(Enclosure in No. 60.)

REPORT of SPECIAL COMMITTEE of COUNCIL on the MINUTE of His Excellency the GOVERNOR, laid on the Council Table the 22nd day of March 1854.

Present:

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.
— the Treasurer.
— W. Forster.
— G. Fropier.
— C. W. Wiehe.
— Capt. W. W. West, R.N.
— E. Baudot.

1. Read. His Excellency's Minute above mentioned, on the Education of Indian Children in this Colony.

Read also letter of Superintendent of Government Schools to Colonial Secretary, enclosing returns of schoolmasters, dated the 12th of May 1854.

2. The Special Committee express their regret that different circumstances have hitherto prevented them from giving their consideration to the subject of this important document.

3. On the gravity of the interests of which the minute treats, the Committee are entirely agreed. They regard it as a serious duty that the children of those Indians whose continuous immigration is so indispensable to the prosperity of the colony, should be rescued from the low state of ignorance and indiscipline in which they are now sunk, and should be moulded into docile and useful subjects. They consider this not only as the moral duty, but as the immediate interest of the colony; for, with a resident population of more than 100,000 Indians, it is not only a scandal, but a danger, to leave the children of this race unenlightened by knowledge, unformed by discipline, and unconnected by the ties of early habits with the people among whom they are destined to live.

4. But while they concur in admitting the evil which exists, the Committee do not find equal facility in recognizing the most obvious and simple mode of applying its remedy.

5. At first they were inclined to support his Excellency's scheme of instituting special schools for the exclusive instruction of Indian children, and training special Indian teachers for that purpose. But further consideration has convinced them that such a plan is not certain of success, and that its success would be but an equivocal gain. In the first place, the experiment which was made nearly two years ago in the Savanne, of placing Indian children under an Indian teacher, was not so fortunate as to encourage its repetition either there or elsewhere. For, after a period of eight or nine months, it was found that only sixteen scholars had availed themselves of the proffered boon, and that these had made less progress than children of the same age and race generally do in the ordinary government schools under Creole or European teachers. But, more than this, the Committee agree in thinking that the evil of such an institution would not be merely negative. They consider that, even supposing the educational duties to be well performed, the isolation of the Indian from the other Creole children at an age when their minds are most impressible, would necessarily tend to separate them in after years from the rest of the population, and perpetuate an antagonism of those races which it is so desirable to amalgamate.

6. The Committee are therefore opposed on principle to the adoption of any scheme which offers no certain guarantee of succeeding, and the success of which would confirm the segregation of the Indians and Creoles, the antagonism of races and the traditionary prejudices of caste.

Whatever be the amount of education required for Indian children in the colony, the Committee are convinced that it should be the same in kind, and in the mode of communication, as that which is given to the children of the various other races which compose the population of the colony.

And this leads them to compare the proportion of Indian to Creole children who receive education in the Government schools; and next, the proportion of the latter to the whole number of those who ought to be receiving it.

7. As nearly as can be gathered from the returns made by the different masters of the Government schools to the superintendent, and transmitted by him to the Colonial Secretary, on the subject of Indian children, it would seem that the number of those who attend the Government schools, and both of whose parents are Indian, does not altogether exceed twenty, though the number of those who bear Indian names, but whose parents are partly Indian and partly Creole, and who are identified by habits and associations with the Creoles, is larger, yet at the same time far from being so large as it ought to be.

8. Now, taking as the basis of their calculations the census made in 1851 and the annual returns of the Protector, the Committee assume that there are in this island about 10,500 Indian boys and girls of all ages up to fourteen. Of these, about 5,600 are between the ages of four and fourteen, *i. e.* at that point of life when the opportunities of imparting, and the capacity of imbibing, instruction are most copious and available.

9. Of all these 5,600 children, the Committee regret to say that scarcely 100 receive any instruction in the Government schools. And they have little hesitation in asserting that the Government schools are the only places where they receive any instruction at all. In other words, hardly 2 per cent. of the Indian children capable of being taught are enjoying the imperfect advantages of the most elementary teaching. Upon so painful a fact as this comment would be only superfluous.

10. The Committee will next proceed to examine the proportion of Creole children brought up in the Government schools.

11. According to the last annual report of the superintendent the total number of children (of whatever origin) attending these schools was 2,089 (two thousand and eighty-nine). As the Indians hardly amount to 100, two thousand may be taken as the number of Creole children so instructed.

MAURITIUS.

The Committee find that the last census returns about 38,000 as the number of all, *except Indian*, children in the colony. Of these, 23,500 were between the ages of four and fourteen. Allowing for a small increase in the number of those children, we may calculate that the proportion now borne by those educated in the Government schools to the whole number of those who are between the last-mentioned ages, is 8·5 per cent.

But to the Creole children who attend the Government schools we must add those who attend private academies, the schools under the direction of the Roman Catholic clergy, and the Royal College. These may be estimated at 3,400, so that the aggregate number of Creole (excluding Indian) children who receive any education,—whether of a higher or inferior order,—is altogether about 5,500. This presents a proportion of fourteen per cent. to all the Creole children in the colony, and of twenty-two per cent. to those who are between the two extreme ages at which children generally go to school.

Now the last great census of England and Wales (excluding Ireland, Scotland, and the Channel Islands) gives us, under its educational head, 1,768,000 day-scholars between the ages of five and fifteen out of a total number of more than 4,000,000 children between those ages, or more than forty-four per cent., and ten per cent. of the whole population of England and Wales.

12. Perhaps this comparison may at first sight appear more favourable to Mauritius than the respective resources of the colony and the mother country might have led us to anticipate. But an analysis of the numbers, however satisfactory it may be deemed in other respects, is not very encouraging so far as regards the instruction afforded to the poorer classes. While in England nearly nine-tenths of the whole instruction given both by national, denominational, public, and parochial schools is, by its very nature, designed for the benefit of those who will have to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow, in this colony more than thirty per cent. of the whole instruction given is devoted to those whose prospects in life elevate them above the conditions of manual toil. Thus, while only fourteen per cent. of the whole youthful population of the island are enjoying the privileges of education, an unusually large proportion of this fraction are enjoying an education which can only be acquired by competence or wealth. Out of 23,500 children who are of an age to learn, only 5,500 are learning at all, and of these no less than 1,649 are receiving a higher kind of education, leaving to 3,850 a lower kind, and to 18,000 no perceptible kind whatever! This disproportion between the number of those who taste the enjoyments of superior knowledge and those who are forced to go without any, is still further enhanced when we add to the 18,000 uneducated Creoles the 5,500 uneducated Indian children equally destitute and equally susceptible of education.

13. It is, therefore, clear that the difference in the educational deficiencies of the two races is one merely of degree. Only the deficiency is far more striking on the part of the Indian than of the Creole child.

14. Struck by these facts, the Committee would earnestly recommend that the attention of Government be directed to providing more general means of education for all the humbler classes of society in this colony, and not merely for that race whose present wants are the more glaring and conspicuous.

15. The Committee are well aware that difficulties and expense must be encountered in any endeavours that may be made to bring the numerical proportion of our day-scholars nearer to the standard recognized in England. That such a standard should be exactly attained is hardly to be expected in a small colony, where we look in vain for those lavish bequests and ample endowments by which, in England, private generosity or charitable association or ecclesiastical munificence has so effectually aided, and generally outstripped, the contributions of the State. Still the Committee think that the best interests of the colony require that a more extensive provision be made for the educational wants of the poorer classes, and therefore recommend to the consideration of Government the expediency of enlarging the present annual vote for that object.

16. Neither, while they offer these suggestions, are the Committee unaware of the objections entertained by some persons of respectability and influence against the diffusion of an education calculated, as they assert, to render its recipients too aspiring or too vain for the prosecution of agricultural or any other humble kind of labour.

The Committee are perfectly alive to the disrelish with which the children not only of the ex-apprentices, but also of the Indian immigrants, regard the prosecution of an industry followed by millions of freemen in every part of Europe. They know that the object which the youth of the humblest classes often propose, in acquiring education, is to qualify themselves for the situations of clerks, or other sedentary employments, and thus raise themselves above the condition of artizans, mechanics, and manual labourers. And they do not fail to perceive that this laudable ambition may, if the means of public instruction be enlarged, be gratified to an extent which may eventually prejudice not only the proprietary class, but even the aspirants themselves, by crowding the overstocked arena of competition for urban and sedentary occupations with men whose arms and sinews might be more usefully and profitably employed in the cultivation of the soil and the ruder mechanical arts.

17. But the Committee are inclined to believe that this disparagement of the most primary art of civilized life is in this colony the result of ignorance combined with past associations; and that a more general diffusion of knowledge, particularly if its com-

munication included industrial instruction, might remove this prejudice. That education of itself does not necessarily and universally inspire those on whom it is conferred with a contempt or dislike for manual labour, is proved by the recorded success of those who have recently made such strenuous efforts to spread a better sort of knowledge among the peasantry in different counties of England. It has not been found that the farm labourers have thus been filled with ideas and pretensions above their humble calling; while it has been found that wherever sound instruction has been faithfully given, the pupil, however low his position or however rude his craft, has been improved thereby in his character as a man and his steadiness as a workman. England, Holland, Switzerland, Protestant Prussia, and the United States of America, each testify that education, so far from degrading field-labour in the mind of the peasant, has dignified and exalted it, by associating it with the idea of a calling to be followed and a duty to be discharged. Nowhere in the world can men be found, as a body, more free, more intelligent, and more industrious than the peasant cotters of Switzerland and Scotland, or the skilled artizans of England and the United States. And the Committee therefore hope that a system of education which, with the ordinary instruction in reading and writing, combined some training either agricultural or mechanical, might eventually eradicate from the minds of the ex-apprentices that antipathy to the tillage of the soil for hire which was engendered by a state of things that has passed away, to return no more. Should this change ever be realized, it will add both to the collective wealth of the colony and the comfort of individuals, by recruiting the tillers of the soil from its native occupants, instead of foreign immigrants, and by rewarding with daily wages the daily labour of men whose aversion to such employment has been fostered by a long impunity of idleness, and encouraged by the proud contemptuousness of misunderstood liberty and unlettered ignorance.

18. But to bring the Creole children of this class—whether of Indian or African origin—and the Indian children, wholly new to the colony—within the operation of scholastic or industrial discipline, must, in the opinion of the Committee, require not only the generous but the coercive interference of the Government.

So long as ignorance entails no perceptible loss, and idleness provokes no external punishment, those who have hitherto been idle and ignorant will be content to remain so. How strong must have been that *vis inertiæ* which has heretofore resisted all efforts to educate the Indian children, or how strong the influence of the example set by Creole parents and Creole children, may be inferred from the striking fact, recorded in the last annual report of the superintendent of Government schools, that some of the parents, so far from embracing the opportunity thus offered, do not scruple to exact a bribe ere they finally yield to the entreaties of the teachers and send their offspring to school.

Unless, then, Government interfere with a strong as well as generous hand, there is too much reason to apprehend that the evil will not only remain undiminished, but continue to increase. And thus, in the progress of years, the colony will possess a large population useless for all purposes of labour, as it will be reckless of all the elements of knowledge; in ordinary times living from hand to mouth upon the unearned produce of a prodigal soil, and in times of unusual pressure dependent for subsistence upon the unmerited bounties of that wealth which it has neither contributed to create by its industry nor to economize by its intelligence.

19. A compulsory education is perhaps highly objectionable to some minds even now. It was for a long time generally viewed with dislike in England. But this dislike is now dying away; and at no distant time we may expect to see the education of the lower classes of society in England rendered compulsory by Act of Parliament, just as it is in Prussia and some of the united states of America. This has already been done in part for the children employed in factories, of whom 17,000, between the ages of eight and thirteen, were at the date of the last census receiving education in different "factory schools."

20. The principle of this compulsion does not admit of the same identical application here as in England. There, several thousands of children are regularly employed in the great industrial establishments. Of these, all between the above-mentioned ages must attend the "factory schools" three times daily for five days in each week. Here, unfortunately, children are not, except very rarely, employed for wages. Those who do not go to school lead lives no less of unredeemed idleness than of unillumined ignorance. Therefore one essential element of the educational machinery is wanting here, which is so effectual in England, viz., the intermediate agency of the employer.

21. But although no such powerful instrumentality exists here, the Committee are disposed to think that a similar effect might be produced by an analogous means. Such difficulties as may beset the forced instruction of Creole children (and the Committee do not consider them to be insuperable) do not in an equal degree hamper that of the Indian children. The Committee think that it would not be difficult to compel every planter who engaged Indian parents to see that the children of his labourers went to some Government school, if such existed, within a certain specified distance from his estate. And as for others—Creoles as well as Indians—the Committee believe that, whatever prejudices might be arrayed against the introduction of such a system, it would not be impossible, nor, after a short time, difficult, to carry into effect a law compelling, under

penalties, all persons living within a certain distance of a Government school to send their children thither, unless they produced proof that they were already receiving instruction elsewhere.

22. To make this system generally effective will call into existence more and larger schools than we have at present in the colony. It will require also more teachers and more assistants than are now devoting themselves to the wearisome task of education. Even for so small an aggregate number as 2,000 pupils, many of the existing schools are overcrowded and most of the teachers overtasked. To meet the contemplated improvement, provision must be made for additional teachers and more spacious buildings. Nor should it be forgotten that, if the suggestions of the Committee be acted on, the new edifices will not be complete without the addition of working-rooms and implements for the industrial training of the children.

23. It is probable that the total expense of the proposed charges will eventually reach double the sum now annually voted for education, viz., 10,644*l.* 16*s.* But as the Committee recommend only a partial and gradual adoption of their proposal, they believe that an experiment may be made of its merits, on so slight a scale as not at first to disproportionately enhance the present annual cost of our schools. Should the first experiment be successful, the system may be extended; and when once its benefits have been recognized by the parents of the pupils, the Committee believe that the payments made by such of them as are in competent circumstances will in a great degree make up for the additional expense incurred on behalf of the poorest classes. But this can only result from such a diffused appreciation of the benefits arising from moral and mental discipline as cannot be expected until after the lapse of some years.

24. Meanwhile the Committee content themselves with deprecating the institution of schools for the exclusive benefit of Indian children, and with recommending such a gradual augmentation of the number and such a change in the system of the existing Government schools as shall, at the same time, provide for the intellectual improvement of a larger proportion of the Creole children than at present, and shall inspire them with a love of labour even under forms which have hitherto provoked only repugnance and disgust.

25. Before they conclude their report, the Committee would remark that the prejudice entertained to particular kinds of industry would be mitigated, if not effaced, were the regulations contained in the Royal Order of Council dated the 7th of September 1838 modified or repealed. Were this done, the apprentice law of England could be put in full force throughout the colony, and it might be extended (with proper precautionary restrictions) to agricultural engagements: this, combined with the joint agency of the Government schools and the district poor relief committees (whose powers seem hitherto to have been imperfectly used), might give a character to the education of Creole children, and an early bias to their minds, which would obliterate the reproach that now attaches to their indolence, and eventually divert the resources of the colony from the costly introduction of external to the fair remuneration of internal industry.

C. J. Bayley,
Colonial Secretary,—Chairman.

Council Chamber, 7th Feb. 1855.

PART III.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

PART III.—AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 25.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 25.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Dougan to the Right Honourable Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.

(No. 143.) Government House, Sierra Leone, August 20, 1855.

Sir, (Received October 13, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit herewith the duplicate Blue Book for the year 1854, together with my report thereon.

Having only assumed the temporary administration of this government about two months before the close of the year 1854, I can but attempt little more in the report than beyond offering a few remarks upon some items contained in the Blue Book.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Report on the Annual Blue Book of Sierra Leone for the Year 1854.

I.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

The whole of the taxes levied in the colony are imposed by various ordinances of the Governor and Council, after confirmation by Her Majesty's Government. These consist of,—

1st. *Custom duties*, which are,

An advalorem duty of four per cent. upon certain descriptions of British and Foreign goods imported into the colony, or conveyed up the Sierra Leone river, and a specific duty upon other articles.

African produce pays no duty. Horses pay a tax of 1*l.* upon being imported.

The ordinance under which these duties are imposed was passed by the Legislative Council on the 12th day of July 1853, and came into operation on the 1st day of February 1854.

2dly. Other local taxes, the principal of which are,

A. House and land tax.

B. Market dues, farmed at 350*l.* per annum.

C. A tax on horses and carriages; every horse being taxed 1*l.*, and every carriage 2*l.*

D. Auctioneers' licences, 25*l.* per annum each.

E. Spirit licences, in town 50*l.* per annum each, and in the country districts 20*l.* per annum each.

F. Licences to ply boats and canoes, 10*s.* per annum each.

Of these imposts the customs duties or dues are by far the most important with regard to revenue, as will be seen under the third head of this report.

Among the other local taxes, that upon houses and lands and spirit licences are the most productive; the rest are comparatively of little value to the revenue.

II.

Fees.

Under this head I would recommend, that the return furnished to captors of slave vessels of the negroes delivered over to the liberated African department, after emancipation, should be given gratuitously, and that the fee of 2*l.* 2*s.* now charged should not in future be demanded from the captors for this return. There is no authority for imposing this fee that can be traced.

III.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue is derived,—

1st. From duties on imports.

2d. From other sources. These are,—

The other local taxes which are mentioned in the preceding first section.

Rents of factories and other places held by the Crown.

Incidental receipts, such as fees on grants of land, fines awarded by courts of law, &c.

The revenue for the year (including a balance on hand of 3,963*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* on 1st January 1854) appears to have been - - 27,276*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*

The expenditure - - - - 21,672*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

Leaving a balance in chest on 31st December 1854 of - - - - 5,603*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

From this amount must be deducted the sum of 2,137*l.* 9*s.* 8¾*d.* for deposits principally received from customs seizures and proceeds of unrepresented estates, which will only leave 3,476*l.* 3*s.* 4¼*d.* as the true balance due to the colony.

The finances of the colony would therefore appear at this time in a satisfactory condition; but many public works which required immediate attention were suspended, from the uncertainty, I believe, of the amount of revenue to be received within the year, in consequence of the new tariff, referred to in the first section, having only come into operation in the month of February of the past year.

The following return exhibits the net revenue and expenditure of the colony for the preceding seven years (from the year 1848 to the year 1854 inclusive), so far as the same were derived from the sources before mentioned.

Revenue.

Year.	Amount of Customs Duties on Imports, &c.	Amount of Revenue from other Sources, deducting Receipts in aid of Revenue.	Net Amount of Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1848 - -	13,816 5 1	5,044 7 4	18,860 12 5
1849 - -	12,840 2 8	4,559 15 10	17,399 18 6
1850 - -	12,974 7 7	4,056 16 7	17,031 4 2
1851 - -	16,217 8 4	4,641 8 4½	20,858 16 8½
1852 - -	13,831 18 9	6,471 10 7	20,303 9 4
1853 - -	15,934 0 7	5,896 11 2	21,830 11 9
1854 - -	15,467 7 10	6,535 9 5½	22,002 17 3½

Expenditure.

Year.	Remittances to Agent General, to pay Pensions, &c. Miscellaneous Expenses in England.	General Disbursements, exclusive of that paid from Parliamentary Grant.	Net Amount of Disbursements.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1848 - -	1,250 0 0	21,825 15 4½	23,075 15 4¼
1849 - -	750 0 0	20,119 1 1	20,869 1 1
1850 - -	500 0 0	17,639 0 7	18,139 0 7
1851 - -	2,105 0 6	17,885 14 9½	19,990 15 3½
1852 - -	1,900 0 0	17,808 14 2¾	19,708 14 2¾
1853 - -	3,450 0 0	16,764 4 3½	20,214 4 3½
1854 - -	1,904 10 11	19,678 5 11	21,672 16 10

From the foregoing return it will appear that the customs revenue collected in the past year is fully equal to that for 1853, notwithstanding the alteration in

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the tariff under the ordinance before mentioned, which was only in operation for eleven months of the year.

In the local revenue, also, there is an increase over the preceding year of upwards of 600*l.*

Should there be a diminution in the customs revenue for the year 1855, it may be a question for consideration whether the present tariff ought not to be remodelled, and a smaller advalorem duty imposed upon all articles imported into the colony, without reference to quality, whether for home use or exportation, with the exception of spirits and tobacco, which two articles should further pay an extra duty, if consumed in the colony. Merchants would thus be induced to import their goods direct to this place, instead of taking them, as they now do, into the neighbouring rivers, where no duties are imposed. Here their goods would be perfectly safe, and they would then only supply their factories as articles were required. In the rivers they are subject to losses by fire, and plunder by the natives.

The only direct taxation the colonists are subject to is the tax on houses and lands; and although a good deal of opposition has been made to the payment of it, still it must be admitted to be a very proper tax, affecting alike all classes of the community according to their means; and I am in hopes it will still give a greater revenue than it has done for the last two years, when more attention is paid to the collection of it, and to the enforcement of the penalties upon defaulters.

There is an increase, however, in the past year over the previous year of 240*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*; but I think by proper management this tax might be made to yield at least 3,000*l.* per annum. As the census has been very correctly taken this year, it will now be an easy matter for the assessment roll to be made equally correct.

I will now refer to the *expenditure.*

The net expenditure of the colony, for the years 1853 and 1854, has been—

	£	s.	d.
For 1853 - - - -	20,214	4	3½
Against a revenue of - - -	21,830	11	9
For 1854 - - - - -	21,672	16	10
Against a revenue of - - -	22,002	17	3

Both years showing a surplus revenue over expenditure, in the former year of 1,616*l.*, and in the latter of 330*l.*

In the latter year the Queen's Advocate's salary of 500*l.* per annum for a portion of the year was paid from the colonial funds, and withdrawn from the Parliamentary grant. The employment of the militia force for drill, the increase of the police force, and the expense of rescuing slaves, by Governor Kennedy, have considerably increased the expenditure for the past year. Under the head of public works the expenditure has been principally confined to the completion and repair of public buildings and other necessary works. The only new work commenced is the market house at Wilberforce.

Military Expenditure.

There is no colonial expenditure under this head, and no allowances, quarters, or other advantages enjoyed by the troops (consisting of detachments from the 1st, 2d, and 3d West India Regiments) at the expense of the colony.

Public Works.

The commencement of the market house at Wilberforce, and the necessary repairs to the public buildings generally, and roads and bridges, are all that has been attempted during the year. The new wharf to be erected will, however, be the first building which will require immediate attention in the ensuing year; there is a loud outcry for wharfage accommodation, and every possible means should be adopted to expedite the progress of this work, particularly when the merchants have already paid by wharfage a very considerable sum towards its erection.

Legislation.

The following ordinances have been passed by the Legislative Council, and confirmed by Her Majesty:

"An ordinance to amend the laws relating to the sale of spirituous liquors "in this colony."

"An ordinance for the naturalization of Frederick Bultman in the colony of "Sierra Leone."

"An ordinance to amend an ordinance passed on the 12th day of July 1853, "intituled 'An ordinance to amend the laws in force for granting duties of "'customs and certain other duties or dues.'"

"An ordinance for the naturalization of Victor Duranty in the colony of "Sierra Leone."

"An ordinance to amend an ordinance, intituled 'An ordinance to amend "'the laws relative to jurors and juries in the colony of Sierra Leone.'"

"An ordinance to make further provisions for the prevention of smuggling "within the colony of Sierra Leone."

"An ordinance to amend the law for raising a tax on lands and houses "within the colony of Sierra Leone."

"An ordinance to amend an ordinance passed on the 14th day of March "1854, intituled 'An ordinance to provide for the due registration of deeds "and other instruments intended to take effect within the colony of Sierra "Leone.'"

"An ordinance for regulating the naming of streets, and for enforcing the "numbering of lots and houses, in Freetown, as well as in the rural districts "of the colony of Sierra Leone."

Council and Assembly.

The gentlemen composing the Legislative Council of the colony are—

The Chief Justice.
The Queen's Advocate.
The Colonial Secretary.
The Police Magistrate.
The Collector of Customs.
Charles Heddle, Esquire, merchant.

The Bishop has also a seat in the Council, but the successor to the late Bishop Vidal has not yet arrived in the colony.

Civil Establishment.

The only increase to the establishment was the appointment of an assistant police magistrate at a salary of 250*l.* per annum, and the usual allowance for a horse.

I regret to add that this office became vacant upon the decease of Captain H. R. Searle, shortly after his return to the colony, having been attacked with the remittent fever of the country, which subsequently produced apoplexy, of which he died on the 25th November 1854.

Pensions.

There is one additional pensioner on the list. Mrs. Vidal, widow of the late Bishop Vidal, has been granted 50*l.* per annum by the Council, which has been approved by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Foreign Consuls.

The Chevalier Guillemar d'Aragon is the Especial Consul for Her Majesty the Queen of Spain.

The same gentleman is Consul for the Emperor of the French.

Population.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is divided into five districts, viz.:

1st. The district of Freetown, the capital of the colony.

2d. The first eastern district, which includes the villages of Kissy, and those of Wellington, Newlands, and Allens' Town.

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3d. The second eastern district comprises the villages of Hastings, Stanley Victoria, and Rokelle, Hastings Road, Waterloo, Campbell Town, and Macdonald.

4th. The western district comprises the villages of Kent, Russell, York, Sussex, and one or two small native villages, and the villages of Dublin and Ricketts in the Banana Islands.

5th. The mountain district, which occupies about the centre of the colony, contains the villages of Leicester, Gloucester, Regent, Bathurst, Charlotte, Wilberforce, Congotown, Murray, Aberdeen, Lumley, Goderick, and Adonkia.

Since the Blue Book was transmitted to the Colonial Office the census has been returned, and I am now able to furnish a statement of the population of the foregoing districts, which appears to be as follows:

	Districts.	1851.	1854.
1	Freetown - -	18,027	16,022
2	First Eastern -	5,351	5,107
3	Second Eastern -	7,827	7,512
4	Western - -	5,287	4,541
5	Mountain - -	8,009	7,201
	Total -	44,501	40,383

Showing a decrease in the total population of the colony, between the years 1851 and 1854, of 4,118 souls.

The troops in garrison were included in the past year (1854) in the census return, and as no notice was taken of them in former years, there will consequently be a further decrease of 355 more persons as compared with 1851.

It is a difficult matter to account correctly for the very large deficiency in the population during the three past years, but there has been a considerable decrease of alien residents, and since the passing of the alien children ordinance it has had the effect of driving very many persons from the colony, and transient native traders are now extremely cautious in bringing with them persons under age. There are very many absentees trading in the neighbourhood of Lagos, between which place and this port there is a very great and increasing traffic in palm oil, sprung up within the last three years, and within that period only 61 persons have emigrated to the West Indies. There is also a very great inducement for trading in the neighbouring rivers, the produce trade, particularly in ground nuts, having considerably increased, the population, therefore, must ever be fluctuating, and it is consequently impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion.

Ecclesiastical.

The colony has had to deplore the loss of her first bishop, the late Owen Emeric Vidal, who died on board the "Bacchante" on the 24th December 1854, on his return from visiting a portion of his extensive diocese to the southward of this colony.

The Rev. Edward Jones has performed the duties of colonial chaplain in a most satisfactory manner during the past year, in the absence from this colony of our late bishop, and also subsequently to his death. He is respected by all classes.

Education.

The four principal establishments are under the direction of the Church Missionary Society.

Fourah Bay Institution has three instructors and seventeen students. These are prepared for the service of the Church Missionary Society as schoolmasters and catechists, with a view to the ordination of the most suitable. Their studies embrace the original languages, Arabic, mathematics, &c.

It is intended shortly to open its advantages to all, and make it a place of general education.

Grammar School, Regent Square.

This is a self-supporting pay and boarding school. It has a principal and two assistants, and occupies an intermediate position between the day school and the Fourah Bay Institution. It numbers seventy-eight pupils, and received during the year 1854 the sum of 349*l.* for board and education of pupils.

The branches taught are English grammar, geography, arithmetic, algebra, &c. Latin and Greek are also taught if required.

Female Institution, Freetown.

Under the charge of a European instructress is devoted to the education of females to a degree higher than what is attainable in the day schools. It numbers twenty-nine pupils. This is also a self-supporting school; that is, the scholars all pay for their board and tuition. The sum of 92*l.* was paid in the year 1854.

The *Normal School* at the village of Kissy is an industrial school composed chiefly of the liberated African boys whom Her Majesty's Government have committed to the care of the Church Missionary Society. It has an English master and two assistants. A carpenter's workshop is in connexion with this institution; and many of the boys are taught tailoring. A piece of ground is laid out for cultivation at the proper season. This institution has only been established during the year 1854.

Institution at King Tom's.

This institution is under the control of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, and was established for the purpose of teaching and training native youths as agents to be employed on Wesleyan Missionary stations in this colony, or any other place, in the capacity of teachers, catechists, or native missionaries, for which by their character and attainments they may be found qualified.

No changes have taken place in the various day schools throughout the colony.

Imports.

It is gratifying to notice, that, notwithstanding the alteration in the tariff, the estimated value of the imports of the colony for the year 1854 exceeds that of the preceding year by 12,031*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*;

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The total imports for 1854 amounting to - -	110,812	12	4
And for 1853 - - - - -	98,781	8	10
	12,031	3	6

The general imports for 1854, as compared with 1853, are as follows:—

	1854			against	1853.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
From Great Britain - -	86,165	9	5		81,975	2	4
„ British Colonies -	1,110	13	5		5,191	7	1
„ U. S. of America -	14,039	1	4		9,515	2	0
„ Other Foreign States -	9,497	8	2		2,099	17	5
	110,812	12	4		98,781	8	10

Showing that the imports from Great Britain, the United States of America and other Foreign States have increased during the past year to the amount of 16,111*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, and that the imports from the British Colonies have fallen off to the amount of 4,080*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*

Exports.

The value of the exports for 1854 is stated at 154,126*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, against 135,808*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* in 1853, showing an increase to the amount of 18,317*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

SIERRA LEONE.

This result is equally satisfactory. The export for these two years stand thus:—

	1854 £	s.	d.	against	1853. £	s.	d.
To Great Britain - -	86,833	15	11	-	77,658	0	4
„ British Colonies - -	1,975	8	3	-	—		
„ United States of America	41,267	2	11	-	20,045	7	2
„ other Foreign States -	24,049	16	1	-	38,104	18	9
	154,126	3	2	-	135,808	6	3

Showing that during the past year the exports to Great Britain and the British Colonies have increased, as compared with 1853, to the amount of 11,151*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, and that there is an increase also of 7,166*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* of exports to the United States of America.

These returns, it must be borne in mind, do not include the value of the native gold exported, which, not being liable to duty, is not entered in the manifest of the vessels in clearing at the customs. But a very small amount of this article has been brought to the colony during the past year, as the roads to and from the Foulah country were closed.

Shipping.

During the year 1854 three hundred and fifty-two vessels reported inwards at the customs, comprising 34,669 tons, being a decrease of 2,700 tons, and an increase of 158 ships, as compared with 1853. The account under this head stands as follows:

	1854. Ships.	Tonnage.		1853. Ships.	Tonnage.
From Great Britain - -	39	13,242	against	43	14,530
„ British Colonies - -	9	1,517	„	10	1,853
„ United States of America -	18	3,034	„	18	3,150
„ other Foreign States -	286	16,876	„	122	17,817
Total - -	352	34,669	„	193	37,350

And the number of seamen employed in 1854 being 2,477 against 2,365 in 1853.

The amount of shipping from Great Britain, the colonies, and the United States of America, is the same as the preceding year; from other states the number of vessels is more than double, but the tonnage is rather less.

The state of the shipping outwards for the year 1854 is as follows:—

	1854. Ships.	Tons.		1853. Ships.	Tons.
To Great Britain - - -	38	13,917	against	44	15,942
„ British Colonies - -	4	621	„	4	265
„ United States of America -	16	2,865	„	10	1,661
„ other Foreign States - -	215	16,862	„	166	21,769
Total - -	273	34,265		224	39,637

And the number of seamen, 2,668 for 1854 and 2,683 for 1853.

This statement shows a decrease in the tonnage for 1854 as compared with 1853 of about 5,000 tons, and an increase of forty-nine vessels.

It will be clearly seen from the foregoing statements of the estimated value of the imports as well as exports that the trade and commerce of the colony for the year 1854 has considerably increased, and is in a prosperous condition, notwithstanding that the tonnage of vessels both inwards and outwards has decreased.

Conclusion.

Upon reviewing the several statements before mentioned, I am fully justified in characterizing the past year as one of improvement and progress, and in entertaining hopes for the increasing prosperity of the colony. A new wharf is now in progress, which, when completed, will afford great accommodation, not only to the mercantile community, but to ships of war arriving here for provisions and coals.

It may ere long be deemed necessary, with due attention to the revenue, to relieve merchants and traders from a portion of the imposts with which they are at present taxed, and also as an encouragement for the produce trade now carried on in the neighbouring rivers being brought to this port for shipment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

GAMBIA.

No. 26.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor O'Connor to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell.

(No. 36.)

Government House, Bathurst,
Gambia, July 3, 1855.
(Received August 28, 1855.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1854.

Public Works.

1. The Colonial Hospital was opened for the reception of patients in July 1854. The internal economy and the whole arrangements of this valuable building afford universal satisfaction.

2. British and Foreign seamen, European and native inhabitants, instead of being crowded in miserable huts or lodgings, surrounded by filth, and subjected to a noisome atmosphere, with little or no ventilation, are now amply accommodated in spacious airy wards, and furnished with every comfort the sick can require.

3. Two colonial surgeons, one English, the other French, are in daily attendance on the patients.

4. I nominated Doctor Arrault assistant colonial surgeon,—a gentleman of considerable local medical experience,—on the memorial of the French commercial branch of the community, who represented many seamen came from Marseilles and other ports whose patois it was difficult for any Englishman to understand.

5. The French trade is so extensive in the Gambia as regards the shipping interest I deemed it only just to concede to the reasonable wishes of those connected with it.

6. I annex a return of admissions, discharges, and deaths in the Colonial Hospital from the 1st of July 1854 to the 30th June 1855.

GAMBIA.

Years.	Paying Patients.						Paupers.						Total.		
	Admitted.		Discharged.		Died.		Admitted.		Discharged.		Died.				
	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
WHITE.															
1854.															
July - -	10		4		–		–		–		–		10	4	–
August -	27		24		1		–		–		–		27	24	1
September	10		14		–		–		–		–		10	14	–
October -	19		6		–		1		–		–		20	6	–
November	4		12		–		1		–		2		5	12	2
December	4		4		–		–		–		–		4	4	–
		9		8·7		·25		·17		–		·17			
1855.															
January -	–		3		–		–		–		–		–	3	–
February -	4		2		–		–		–		–		4	2	–
March -	14		4		–		–		–		–		14	4	–
April -	3		16		2		–		–		–		3	16	2
May -	10		11		–		–		–		–		10	11	–
June -	2		4		–		–		–		–		2	4	–
	107	9	104	8·7	3	·25	2	·17	–	–	2	·17	109	104	5
BLACKS.															
1854.															
July - -	6		6		–		2		1		1		8	7	1
August -	6		6		–		1		–		1		7	6	1
September	3		3		–		3		3		–		6	6	–
October -	2		2		–		6		1		3		8	3	3
November	–		–		–		3		2		2		3	2	2
December	2		1		–		2		–		2		4	1	2
		2·3		2·25		·83		2·25		1·2		·1			
1855.															
January -	5		5		1		1		–		2		6	5	3
February -	1		1		–		1		1		–		2	2	–
March -	2		1		–		2		1		1		4	2	1
April -	–		1		–		2		2		–		2	3	–
May -	1		–		–		2		2		–		3	2	–
June -	–		1		–		2		1		–		2	2	–
	28	2·3	27	2·25	1	·83	27	2·25	14	1·2	12	·1	55	41	13

7. One or two points of the foregoing document require brief explanation. In August the admissions amounted to twenty-seven; of this number nine were distressed seamen, "Lascars" belonging to a ship burnt near Goree; and in October fourteen of the same class.

8. In January there was not one admission.

9. Of one hundred and seven Europeans admitted in the past twelve months, only three died, for the two paupers cannot fairly be included in the bill of mortality.

10. Of fifty-five blacks admitted during the same time, thirteen died; but of this number twelve were paupers, taken from the streets or out of wretched dens, in an exhausted and hopeless condition, and perishing from inanition.

11. One case only of twenty-eight "paying patients" proved fatal.

12. I have enjoyed extensive and numerous opportunities of visiting many Colonial and Military Hospitals, and I am satisfied none are better calculated to answer every useful and sanatory purpose required than the one now in full operation at the Gambia.

13. The new market at Bathurst consists of three roofs, twenty feet span each and one hundred and forty feet in length, supported on sixty-four cast iron

columns; the roof is covered with sheets of galvanized corrugated iron; the rain passes down the columns into earthenware pipes, which convey it to the river.

14. The market is capable of accommodating from one hundred to one hundred and thirty venders.

15. The butchers' stalls will be enclosed; the other stalls left open. The fishmongers will have blocks of wood in the first instance, but subsequently slate slabs, to expose their fish on for sale.

16. Great attention has been bestowed to render the market building as secure and permanent as practicable; to ensure this the columns are deeply imbedded in foundations of solid masonry; the roof is divided into three spans instead of one, thereby diminishing the height, and exposing as little surface as possible to the tornadoes; the angle of the building open to the fury of the tornadoes has been protected by a wall of nine feet in height, built of country stone.

17. The sum expended on the market amounts to nearly 2,600*l.*, but this excess above the original estimate has been caused by the rapid and great increased price of materials, freight, and labour. The building is sightly, well situated, a much required and useful appendage to Bathurst, and reflects credit on the professional ability of Mr. William Bage, the colonial engineer.

Government House.

18. On taking possession of Government House, October 1852, I found the whole of the building in a dilapidated condition; the roof leaky; the beams and floors of the upper rooms and of the upper and lower piazzas completely decayed; the latter almost unsafe to walk in.

19. In 1853 a new roof was put on, and this year the beams and tiling of the lower piazza renewed. It is proposed by the colonial engineer to substitute iron girders for the present rotten "run palm" beams, and arch the front and rear walls, thus permanently repairing instead of patching up the building.

20. The Board of Survey reported the furniture, in October 1852, "as old and unserviceable." Since then three sofas and twenty-four chairs have been received for the public rooms. The furniture of the private apartments, such as it is, with few exceptions was purchased at my individual expense.

Legislation.

21. During the past year the following ordinances were brought by me before the "Legislative Council," passed, graciously approved of by the Queen, and proclaimed:—"An ordinance to restrain the future building of habitations of dangerous and inflammable materials in the town of Bathurst."

22. I consider this as a very necessary measure, for in every direction of Bathurst, within nearly every enclosure adjacent to valuable stores and dwelling houses, huts composed of cane, wattles, and thatched with grass, were indiscriminately constructed, affording a ready and abundant inflammable material for fire.

23. The universal reckless and careless habits of the natives rendered these huts sources of constant danger, for placing cooking and coal pots absolutely next the cane walls was an occurrence of every hour.

24. I am only surprised repeated conflagrations have not swept away a large amount of property, more particularly as there is not one public or private fire engine serviceable, or a solitary tank to afford a supply of water, in the whole town of Bathurst.

25. "An ordinance to amend the process, practice, and mode of pleading in the common law side in the supreme court for the British Settlements on the River Gambia," were carefully framed, dispassionately discussed, and are well

GAMBIA.

"Dover."

37. I proceeded in the "Dover" up the River Gambia to the most distant European factory save one, in March, visiting the kings and chiefs, and holding commercial palavers with them.

38. I am satisfied it is of considerable benefit as regards our relations with the several potentates for the Governor of the Gambia to meet them on a friendly footing at least yearly.

39. This intercourse reminds our allies we hold a fixed position in the river, have the means and power of being easily and rapidly in their dominions, and that we are not forgetful of them or of their people; besides, visits of ceremony are considered and received as marks of honour and friendship.

40. Having to inspect the troops at Sierra Leone in April, I selected the route viâ the whole coast instead of the direct one.

41. I called at Bissao-Bulama, Kanaback; made a treaty with the king and chiefs of the last-named Bijuga Island.

No. 29.
Governor O'Connor to Lord J. Russell, 21st May 1855.

42. In a political or commercial point of view, the convention is of very trifling consequence, but it may tend to serve the cause of humanity, "as it "provides, white men under the British flag trading to or wrecked upon the "Bijuga Islands are not to be maltreated, plundered, and massacred, but "protected until means are afforded them of leaving."

Finally.

43. I feel more than ordinary satisfaction in being able to report that crime is by no means on the increase in this colony.

44. From the 1st of January to the 30th of June only twenty-seven cases of drunkenness and thirty-six of street disturbances were brought before the police magistrate; the latter caused by intoxicated European seamen.

45. At the last quarter sessions three prisoners were convicted; eleven are now for trial at the approaching sessions.

46. So much for crime in Bathurst during the last six months, among a population of nearly 4,500 persons.

47. From my own personal experience, extending over a period of nearly three years, in this government, I am convinced that very few communities have less real cause to complain of grave offences being committed against peace and good order than falls to the lot of the inhabitants of Her Majesty's settlements in the Gambia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. O'CONNOR.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

GOLD COAST.

No. 27.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Connor to Lord John Russell.

(No. 66.) Cape Coast Castle, July 16, 1855.

My Lord, (Received 13th October 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit herewith in duplicate the Blue Book for 1854.

2. The year 1854 was here politically an unfortunate one, as two insurrections at Accra disfigured its course. The measures taken to repress the second were severe; but as I apprehend that British influence is the mainstay of improvement in this country, I hope that this severity, by tending to establish that influence, is to be regarded as good elicited from evil. I cannot, however, but think that the establishment kept up in these settlements is inadequate to secure to the Government the influence as a protecting power which it might have with reference to the large population and territory it is in contact with in that relation; but then, on the other hand, I can have no doubt but that the existing establishment effects a large amount of benefit, directly and indirectly; and any more extended operations in the interior would be so dangerous to European life, in addition to requiring an increased expenditure by the mother country without remunerative return, that it may be wiser, while the connexion continues to be one of dignity and authority in the British Crown towards the natives, to be content with the good which can be done under the present system.

3. The receipts of the poll tax of these settlements, and the expenditure of it, are in this Blue Book included and represented as part of the revenue and expenditure of these settlements, in like manner as the other local revenues have hitherto been treated in this respect. As the poll tax was imposed by a native meeting summoned for the occasion though presided over by the Governor (Hill), it is not identical in kind with other colonial revenue, such as customs; but still I could not regard this fund as "local revenue raised and appropriated under the authority of any municipal or other body;" or even supposing that without straining it could be reduced under this denomination, I thought that the establishment and administration of the settlements would be shown so as more satisfactorily to meet the objects of the Blue Books by representing these together in one point of view, in their whole extent, however miniature.

4. The receipts from the poll tax are stated in the Blue Book for 1853 as amounting to the sum of 7,567*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*; but I find it difficult to reconcile that statement with facts and with other documents which I consider more authentic, such as the books of account where the receipts are entered from time to time, the statement drawn up for the information of the native chiefs in May 1854, and Governor Hill's despatch to the Right Honourable Secretary Sir George Grey of 31st May 1854, No. 36. These two latter documents show a receipt for poll tax of 6,656*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* from August 1852 up to 31st December 1853. Part of the difference is accounted for by this circumstance, that a considerable proportion of the payments was in cowries. These are reckoned among the people at 3*s.*4*d.* a head (as a certain quantity of cowries is denominated); and they were received in payment at that rate; but the Government could only realize for them on sale 2*s.*9*d.* a head, this being a loss of 7*d.* a head. Now as 19,752 heads and a fraction are stated to have been paid, this would occasion the receipts to be less than the nominal payments by a sum of 576*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* The currency of the country is one tenth greater in denomination than sterling, and this consideration, if applicable, would more than account for the remaining difference.

The Blue Book for 1854 states the amount of receipts for poll tax in the year 1854; and as it appears that the sum of 6,656*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, set down as the receipts as I have above mentioned upon the lower calculation, included even then all payments on account of poll tax from August 1852 to the end of May 1854, the sum of 3,624*l.* 15*s.* 9½*d.*, the receipts in 1854, are to the

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GOLD COAST.

amount of 1,891*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.* included in the sum of 6,656*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* In short, to suppose that both the sums of 6,656*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* and 3,624*l.* 15*s.* 9½*d.* have been received up to the end of the year 1854 would be an error in excess by the sum of 1,891*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.* Since, however, the 31st December 1854, the sum of 1,136*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* has been received in respect of the collection for 1854.

5. The statement in the Blue Book of 1853 of receipts of poll tax appears erroneous on the grounds I have stated, but the statement of the expenditure of the tax appears to be still more so. The latter is stated as 3,585*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.* Now the statement, and the Despatch of May 1854, which I have already alluded to, show an expenditure of the tax of 5,867*l.* 16*s.* 11½*d.* So that while the Blue Book professes to show a receipt as large as 7,567*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, and an expenditure of only 3,585*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.*, and therefore implies a balance in hands of 3,981*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, the two other documents show and expressly state in figures a balance in hands of only 788*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.* I believe the two latter documents to be very nearly (I dare say quite) correct, except that I conceive they speak of a state of things existing, not on 31st December 1853, but in May 1854. I do not believe that ever since the poll tax has been in existence has there been anything like such a balance in hands as 3,981*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* The frequent changes in office here make explanation difficult. During the period from August 1852 to May 1854, to which these accounts relate, there were here two collectors general of poll tax, and two acting ditto, and one secretary (also treasurer), and two successive acting ditto; and though the two offices were at times held by the same person, five distinct persons were in the above characters during that period accountants in respect of the receipts and expenditure, and none of these are in the settlements now, nor have they been since December last, when I became Acting Governor, so that I have not had the opportunity of getting explanation. Governor Hill, by his Despatch of 31st May 1854, estimated the poll tax for 1854 at 6,000*l.* I regret, however, to say that the receipts fell short of that by fully one half. The Accra disturbances hindered any collection in the leeward districts, which had paid the first year very nearly the amount of the present deficiency.

6. The customs returns show, I am happy to say, a very considerable increase in imports and exports over the year 1853; viz.

Imports in 1853	£60,000
Ditto 1854	107,200
Exports in 1853	115,000
Ditto 1854	200,002

The customs duties being at the nominal rate of an ad valorem duty of half per cent. are scarcely worth notice, but there has been a corresponding increase.

1853.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	256	5	5½
Port and harbour dues	88	15	0
Permits and passports	17	17	0
	£362	7	5½

1854.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	354	11	7
Port and harbour dues	123	0	0
Permits	15	16	0
Not distinguished	132	3	11
Passports	3	13	0
	£629	4	6

The total revenue in 1853, including the Parliamentary grant, is stated in the Blue Book for that year to be £13,249 17 8¾
that in 1854 10,211 1 3

decrease £3,038 16 5¾

The expenditure for 1853 is stated in the Blue Book to be 9,763 4 5¾
that for 1854 9,376 0 9

My previous observations go to contest the accuracy of the statement of the Blue Book of 1853 in respect of these two heads of receipts and expenditure. Correcting these by the two other documents which I have referred to, the revenue will stand for 1853 as 12,339*l.* 1*s.* 6¾*d.*, and the expenditure for 1853 12,045*l.* 13*s.* 5¼*d.* An ordinance has passed the Council lately for increasing the duty upon imports from one half to three per cent., and if this shall receive Her Majesty's allowance I should hope that the revenue from customs will be increased fully six fold.

7. I need hardly observe that the distinguishing export trade from the Gulf of Guinea is now that in palm oil. I should hope that the stimulus given to this trade by the war with Russia, introducing, as it necessarily must, a much extended occupation in the production, will be followed, by persons once so occupied continuing producers of the oil when the price shall have fallen. There may, however be the contrary effect for a time; that the producers, having received a higher price, will refuse a lower, and will not sell at all. The palm oil trade, however, is not carried on to any great extent in the British protected territory on the Gold Coast. The seat of it is farther to leeward. Prampram, a town lying east of Christiansborg Castle, and long, I am told, in connexion with the British Government, but where for some years there have been no officers of Government, is the chief seat of the trade within the British jurisdiction.

8. With respect to the people of this country there is little to be said. Education and Christianity both make advances. The Government has long had a school at Cape Coast Castle, and several of the native merchants have been educated at it; men who are now so much up as to send their children to England for education. The Government avails itself too of funds at its disposal by the poll tax revenue to send as schoolmasters into interior districts young men educated at the Castle. These go into the wild interior, speaking English, and knowing how to read and write and reckon, and these things they teach others, however rudely. The teachers too have themselves been impressed in the Castle school and chapel with the leading truths of Christianity, and carrying with them their Bible and prayer book, we may hope that many others may get a glimmering of knowledge which so much concerns their well-being. The Wesleyan Society has many stations in this country; but without at all wishing to detract from the credit due to this society, I cannot but express my astonishment that the great Church of England societies have never, as far as I am aware, considered this extensive tract of heathen country, enjoying British protection, worth sending a clergyman to. They go to Lagos, Abbeokuta, and other savage places outside the British jurisdiction, but they are not sent here; and, to carry out the same course consistently, we saw last year the late, and, I believe, much-to-be lamented Bishop of Sierra Leone, I believe for the first time, but then twice: he arrived in the October mail in the morning, and left with it in the evening. He stayed in the Lagos district till the following steamer was returning in December, when he again came here with it in the morning; and as part of the machinery required repairing, the steamer stayed till the next evening, and then started with the bishop; but the latter, as your Lordship is aware, died before he reached Sierra Leone, of jungle fever, which he had caught from over-exertion in the Lagos district.

9. This people I believe enjoy as happy an animal existence as any in the world. You see, I may say, no misery here from poverty; you see no rags; a cloth, or in the case of the women two, do the great generality for clothing, and this dress is both in men and women very generally neat. They are a cleanly people in their persons, and, as far as I have seen a kindly people among themselves. They are as a people sadly deficient in manly straightforwardness or truth and in honesty. But daring acts, whether of robbery or violence, are not, I think, often committed. I have introduced into the Blue Book some further observations with reference to the people and their habits, and the products of the country, which I shall not trouble your Lordship by repeating here.

10. In conclusion, I may observe, that the year 1854 was considered for the place a healthy one; but still the proportion from among the small number of civil and military officers or other Europeans who die or are invalided, even in healthy years, is large. It is however very probable that much of this is attributable in part to indiscretions; but the nature of this climate is, that though

GOLD COAST.

happily sweeping epidemics are scarcely known to it, yet generally speaking, it is ever sapping the health, and is always ready to seize fatally on anything peccant either in habits or constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY CONNOR.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 28.

No. 28.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Colonel Vigors to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(No. 7.)

St. Helena, March 29, 1855.
(Received June 12, 1855.)

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1854.

2. The revenue for the year amounts to the sum of 16,749*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.*, of which 603*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* was received on account of the widows' and orphans' fund, leaving a net colonial revenue of 16,145*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* As compared with the year 1853, there would appear to be a falling-off amounting to 1,517*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, which must be attributed to the unusually large amount of imports in the former year.

Revenue 1854.

1854	-	£16,145	2	2
1853	-	17,662	16	10
		1,517	14	8

3. The revenue for 1854 may however be said to have equalled the expectations which were entertained when the estimates for the year were prepared, there being only the slight difference of 99*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* between the estimated and actual receipts.

Revenue, 1854.

Estimated		£16,245	0	0
Actual	-	16,145	2	2½
		99	17	9

4. The expenditure amounts to 19,083*l.* 0*s.* 11½*d.*, showing an increase of little more than 3,000*l.* over both the estimates for 1854 and the comparative expenditure of 1853. The items which compose the excess are chiefly a remittance of 2,000*l.* to Mr. Barnard, an addition of 566*l.* to the estimated expenses of erecting the new gaol, a refund of 338*l.* to the commissariat chest for water charged against the African establishment, and about 200*l.* additional expense of completing the militia corps and drilling recruits on the commencement of the present war.

Expenditure.

1854	-	£19,083	0	11½
1853	-	15,976	17	2
		3,106	3	9½

Expenditure, 1854.

Estimated		£15,751	15	9
Actual		19,083	0	11½
		3,331	5	2½

5. After paying this excess from the balance reserved for the purpose in the commissariat chest, there still remains the sum of 1,631*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* on the 31st December 1854 to the credit of the colony.

6. It is but due to Colonel Browne, the late Governor, to remark, that during his government, by a careful reduction of the expenses of the establishment on the one hand, and by the alteration in the customs tariff, abolishing the ad valorem duties, substituting a scale of wharfage in lieu, and also reducing the tax upon licences to sell wines, spirits, &c., and increasing the duties upon their importation, the financial condition of the colony has been much improved; and although at first sight it would appear that the accounts of the year show a deficit of 3,000*l.*, it nevertheless will be found on examination that the revenue exceeds the ordinary expenses of the government, the excess of expenditure being for special services, and improvements, for the accomplishing of which a sufficient balance had been allowed to accumulate in the treasury.

7. I regret that the failure of crops, particularly of potatoes, referred to by Colonel Browne in his report on the previous year, has again been severely felt. The successful efforts of the lessee of Longwood to grow wheat has led to a reasonable hope that it may under existing circumstances be profitably substituted for other crops in those lands which are suitable for the purpose, and the attention of the farmers generally has been turned to this subject.

8. The construction of the new gaol was not completed until the close of the year. The information and returns connected with gaols and prisoners relate therefore exclusively to the old prison at James Town, which continued in use until the latter part of December 1854.

9. In compliance with a circular despatch from Sir George Grey, requesting that a general report of the state of repair of the government house should be inserted in the Blue Book, I have caused the civil engineer to prepare a detailed and full report, accompanied by a plan and estimate of the amount required to complete its repairs.

10. An inventory and report on the state of the furniture is likewise submitted in my despatch No. 9. of this date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. N. VIGORS,
Colonel, and Acting Governor.

Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 28.

SIR, Civil Engineer's Office, St. Helena, February 12, 1855.

IN compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to forward a report of the state of Plantation House, together with an estimate for putting the same in complete repair, framed after a careful examination of the premises.

In consequence of it being stated in your letter that this information was required for England, I have deemed it advisable to accompany this report with the annexed plans Nos. 1 and 2, the first showing the accommodation in the dwelling house, and the second the extent and boundary of the grounds of 166 acres.

The estimate of repair amounts to 661*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, and an estimate framed in similar detail by me in August 1851 amounted to 498*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*; one of the principal causes of increase arises from the amount of a new item that I have brought forward, viz., renovating the exterior of the dwelling house, an item not perhaps immediately necessary, but one that ought not to be long deferred.

From a comparison of these estimates it confirms me in the opinion that 200*l.* per annum is not sufficient to cover more than the current repair continually required in such extensive premises, and I would respectfully submit whether a periodical additional grant should be allowed, to effect such items of repair as do not fairly come under this class.

I would, in regard to the present estimate, specify the following items under this latter head; viz.

A new roof on the library.
Do. do. laundry.
Renovating the front of the main building;
A new roof on closets marked 12 on plan.

A new improved system of tubular drainage, although not now estimated, would, I think, be attended with most beneficial results to the property.

I have also to report that, further in compliance with your letter, I accompanied Capt. T. B. Knipe in examining the state of the furniture in Plantation House, and the result of an inspection of the same is shown in a column of remarks attached to the inventory.

I framed an estimate of what appeared to me desirable to be laid out in renewing some of the covering worn out, and in effecting several items of repair that would much improve the state generally of this furniture, and the same amounts to 75*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. W. MELLIS,
Civil Engineer.

R. C. Pennell, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 29.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 29.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir George Grey to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell.

(No. 69.) Government House, Cape Town, June 9, 1855.

My Lord, (Received July 17, 1855.)

I have the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1853, which I this day received from the Colonial Secretary's office.

It would appear to be a useless labour for me now, in the middle of 1855, to attempt to acquire such a knowledge in detail of the colony in the year 1853 (so long before my arrival here) as would enable me to transmit with the Blue Book of 1853 an annual report of the state of the colony in that year, more especially as I have forwarded to your department very full reports of the present state of the colony.

The Colonial Secretary informs me that rapid progress is being made in the compilation of the Blue Book for the year 1854.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, (Signed) G. GREY.
&c. &c. &c.

NATAL.

No. 30.

NATAL.

No. 30.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Lieutenant-Governor Colonel H. Cooper to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell.

(No. 60.) Government House, Natal, October 19, 1855.

My Lord, (Received January 25, 1856.)

In obedience to standing instructions I have the honour to transmit the accompanying Report, required from me on the general condition and prospects of this district, to accompany the Blue Book of 1854, which has already been forwarded to your Lordship in duplicate.

I have, &c.

Lord John Russell, (Signed) H. COOPER,
&c. &c. &c. Acting Lieutenant Governor.

Report on the Blue Book for the Year 1854.

I.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The necessity for the loan of 4,000*l.*, raised by the Government of the district at the latter end of the last and the commencement of this year, being calculated, under present circumstances, to produce some little uneasiness, it will not be unprofitable to refer to the annexed table, showing whence the revenue is derived, and the amounts received under each head.

Statement of actual Receipts during the Year 1854.

Customs	£10,936	1	6
Port and Harbour Dues	136	16	1
Land sales for cash	88	0	0
Land revenue	1,439	9	4
Rents, exclusive of land	8	6	8
Transfer duties	1,262	3	1
Auction duties	463	19	2
Licences	20	0	0
Stamps	1,829	4	9
Taxes	10,038	8	0
Postage	1,216	18	8
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	532	2	2
Fees of office	354	7	6
Sale of Government property	19	9	0
Miscellaneous receipts	59	8	8
Special receipts	49	18	5½
Total*	£28,454	13	0½

* This total is of course exclusive of 2,000*l.* of the loan taken up during 1854.

3. This amount is greater than that collected in any previous year, and exceeds that of 1853 by nearly 400*l.*, as shown by the following return, from which all items that do not form actual revenue, such as loans, &c., have been excluded :—

STATEMENT OF ACTUAL REVENUE.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1846	3,073	4	3¾
1847	6,640	15	7¾
1848	9,268	18	7¾
1849	12,831	18	7
1850	28,410	1	2½
1851	26,408	16	3
1852	25,606	19	0¾
1853	28,069	5	0¼
1854	28,454	13	0½

The expenditure on the other hand has been as follows, exclusive of all items such as loans repaid, which do not form part of the actual expenditure :—

STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1846	6,905	8	3½
1847	8,340	4	7½
1848	10,101	4	9¼
1849	14,940	15	1¾
1850	21,774	4	5
1851	21,912	4	0½
1852	25,232	17	2
1853	28,597	14	6¼
1854	31,642	12	2½*

4. From this return it would appear that a sum of 3,044*l.* 17*s.* 8¼*d.* was expended last year in excess of that expended during the previous year. The following statement will, however, show in what service this excess chiefly occurred :—

Amounts expended in 1854 that may be considered of a peculiar and special nature :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
District Court :—						
Recorder's salary				849	14	5
Crown Prosecutor :—						
Acting Crown Prosecutor's salary				49	13	9
Transport :—						
Expenses connected with expedition against Dushani				22	4	0
Works and Buildings :—						
Erection of offices at Ladysmith in excess of estimate	485	0	0			
Compensation for a house at the Point, Port Natal	80	0	0			
Watercourse at Grey Town	50	0	0			
Stables at Ladysmith for Cape Mounted Rifles	50	1	0			
				665	1	0
Roads, streets, and bridges, in excess of Estimate				466	9	9
Carried forward				2,053	2	11

* This amount includes, in addition to the sum shown as actual expenditure, all loans repaid, advances issued, deposits withdrawn, and the amount stolen from the Sub Treasury at Ladysmith. This latter has been omitted in the expenditure shown in the Blue Book. As, however, credit has been taken for the sum abstracted, it must be considered to be an item of expenditure.

NATAL.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward				2,053	2	11
Miscellaneous Services:—						
Standard weights and measures	141	1	6			
Ammunition for burghers	160	11	0			
Compensation to Resident Magistrate, Inanda, for removing his residence	100	0	0			
Allowance to "Natal Mercury" and "Zuid Oost Afrikaan" newspapers	160	0	0			
Compensation to A. Z. Vizagie (for a farm resumed)	400	0	0			
Law expenses in the case of the preceding	57	9	1			
Law expenses in other cases	6	4	3			
Expedition against the chief Dushani	794	11	6			
				1,819	17	4
Interest and commission				99	18	9
Special payment:—						
Recorder's expenses on his voyage to England				548	10	8
Total				£4,521	9	8

5. The first two items, amounting together to 899*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, were on account of salaries paid to Mr. Cloete and Mr. Cope, and that amount was, in addition to the ordinary demand on the revenue for the offices of Recorder and Crown Prosecutor, necessitated by the suspension and subsequent re-instatement of Mr. Cloete in the former office.

6. Under Roads I find an excess of expenditure over the amount provided for of 466*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* I shall, however, reserve any remarks I may have to offer on this subject for a subsequent part of this Report.

7. Miscellaneous Services, 1,819*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, were incurred mainly on account of a portion of the expenses consequent on the commando against the chief Dushani, and of a decision of the District Court, whereby compensation was awarded to A. Z. Visagie for a first-class farm, which had been included in a native location.

8. To these items should be added a sum of 548*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, which is classed under the head of "Special Payments," paid to Mr. Cloete, as travelling and other expenses in proceeding to Europe. The items I have not remarked on appear to be set forth with sufficient clearness in themselves.

9. To enable, however, Her Majesty's Government to arrive at a just conclusion with reference to the general financial condition of this district, I subjoin the following table, showing the excess or deficit in the revenue as compared with the expenditure of each year since 1846. This table includes all transactions of a financial nature since that date:—

——	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Excess of Revenue over Expenditure.			Deficit of Revenue.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Treasury, Natal, on 31st December, 1845	2,116	2	0¾	–	–	–	2,116	2	0¾	–	–	–
1846	5,561	5	11¼	6,949	13	2	–	–	–	1,388	7	2¾
1847	8,476	13	2¼	9,077	16	6¼	–	–	–	601	3	4
1848	11,925	0	5¾	10,446	1	9¼	1,478	18	8½	–	–	–
1849	18,968	11	6	19,104	12	2¾	–	–	–	136	0	8¾
1850	39,742	3	11	36,770	16	9	2,971	7	2	–	–	–
1851	30,956	3	5½	31,263	5	1	–	–	–	307	1	7½
1852	29,650	6	3¾	31,806	18	11	–	–	–	2,156	12	7¼
1853	30,272	14	7¾	29,754	7	10¾	518	6	9	–	–	–
1854	31,403	11	7½	*32,848	2	9	–	–	–	1,444	11	1½
	209,072	13	1½	208,021	15	1	7,084	14	8¼	6,033	16	7¾

* This amount includes, in addition to the sum shown as actual expenditure, all loans repaid, advances issued, deposits withdrawn, and the amount stolen from the Sub-Treasury at Ladysmith. This latter has been omitted in the expenditure shown in the Blue Book. As, however, credit has been taken for the sum abstracted, it must be considered to be an item of expenditure.

10. It will therefore be seen that the revenue of this district was not at any time since 1850 in a condition to cause any anxiety as to its meeting the ordinary expenditure; nor indeed is it so as regards the future, even assuming that it is necessary to maintain the public establishments at their present level; some of which are, however, in my opinion, too large, and may, without injury to the public interests, be greatly reduced.

II.—*Public Works.*

11. No buildings of importance were commenced during last year; but the public offices at Ladysmith were completed in a neat and workmanlike manner, as well as some minor buildings in other villages.

12. *Works at the Harbour.*—These works are continued under the superintendence of a local resident engineer. A breakwater has been extended from the spit of loose sand on the north-east side of the entrance of the bay to such a distance seaward as has already proved of great importance, both in deepening the water on the bar through the increased velocity of the tides, and in protecting the sand of the spit, which, previous to the commencement of the works in 1850, was subject to frequent shiftings, under the influence of the wind and sea. In the present state of the works, owing chiefly to the amount of materials laid out as a rough reef, it would be presumption, and might mislead, to report in detail upon the extension seaward of the breakwater. Up to the close of the present year, however, 23,402 tons of stone have been laid down at an expense of 8,623*l.* 3*s.* 9½*d.*, of which, 8,544 tons were laid down during the fourteen months ending December 1854, at an expense of 2,622*l.* 8*s.* 9½*d.* As the work advances the depth of water on the bar will be increased; but without assistance from the Imperial Treasury, the means at the disposal of the Colonial Government are so inadequate that it is to be feared several years must elapse before the state of the works is such as shall raise the character of the port in the estimation of the owners of shipping of large tonnage as a place of resort. An Ordinance, vesting the control of these works in a Board, to be styled the "Harbour Board," has recently been passed by the Legislative Council; and I hope, ere long, to be able to furnish Her Majesty's Government with more complete information in respect to these works than they have hitherto been in possession of.

13. *Roads.*—An amount of 2,166*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* was expended last year in the construction and repair of the roads. This work has been chiefly entrusted to military road parties, furnished to the Civil Government by myself, as commandant, aided by native labour. Roads thus constructed cost about one fourth of the sum that would be expended on them if other white labourers were employed. Great improvements have been made in the road between this city (the seat of Government), and D'Urban, the seaport.

14. *Bridges.*—Under this head may be included a sum of 243*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* for a pontoon for the Umgeni, by which access is secured during the rainy seasons between the port and the coast lands north of it.

III.—*Education.*

15. But little alteration has been made since 1853 towards a better system of education. The public schools at Pietermaritzburg and D'Urban continue to be supported by the Government. There are seven schools aided by Government, being an increase of one over the number in the preceding year; and many schools, receiving no aid from the Government, are entirely supported by private individuals. To enable the Secretary of State to judge what difficulty would attend the alteration of the present system (if any can be said to exist), I would refer to the subjoined reports of a commission appointed for the purpose of examining the schools established in the district, and of recommending some system adapted to the requirements of the population. By these reports it will be seen that the gentlemen composing the commission were unable to agree, and have furnished me in consequence with separate reports. The present system appears to me to require revision; and I shall not fail to bring this question before his Excellency Sir George Grey, on his arrival here. No material progress has then been made, arrangements having been allowed to go on as previously. A great impediment will be found, in the event of some better system being adopted, from the want of good teachers. There are

NATAL.

also two other serious obstacles in the way of education in this district; and I would bring the fact prominently forward. The first is, the scantiness of the population speaking the English language, the majority talking Zulu-Kafir, and another large portion of the community using the Dutch patois, so that the acquisition of a new language would become a part of the elementary instruction. The second being the number of religious communities into which the small portion using the English language is divided, namely, the Church of England, the Church of Rome, the Presbyterians, the Wesleyans, and the Independents, not to omit the Dutch Reformed Church, a very small portion of whose members speak English.

16. Time and intercourse between the different races will lessen the first difficulty. The second, and perhaps the more serious, could be overcome if any system similar to that established in Ireland with such beneficial results could be adopted here. This would, doubtless, be the most desirable way to overcome the difficulty; but however desirable, I fear it is impossible, under present circumstances, to resort to it; for supposing that no prejudice would exist against such a system, the expense alone would be too burdensome for the resources of this district to bear. I shall, however, take a more fitting opportunity to discuss the subject, this being no place for discussion or suggestion.

IV.—*Imports and Exports.*

17. *Imports.*—The following table shows the value of the imports for each year from 1846 to the end of last year:—

Years.	Value of Imports. £	*s.*	*d.*
1846	41,958	10	3
1847	46,981	8	3
1848	46,204	6	10
1849	55,921	14	11
1850	111,015	11	5
1851	125,462	6	8
1852	103,701	5	4
1853	98,534	13	2
1854	124,722	6	9

This table shows an excess of imports over last year of 26,000*l.* of value.

18. The most striking increase in the returns of last year, over 1853, is in the value of implements and machinery introduced, which stands thus:—

	1853. £	*s.*	*d.*	1854. £	*s.*	*d.*
Agricultural implements	625	0	0	930	5	0
Machinery	390	0	0	2,206	8	2
	£1,015	0	0	3,136	13	2

This may be accounted for by the large quantity of machinery imported for the manufacture of sugar and flour, to the production of which the colonists are now turning their serious attention.

19. *Exports.*—The subjoined table exhibits the value of exports of colonial produce from this district for each year, from 1846 to 1854, both inclusive:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1846	15,409	7	9
1847	13,699	4	6
1848	10,683	17	4
1849	11,265	6	0
1850	15,613	12	3
1851	17,243	10	0
1852	20,164	16	6
1853	26,694	0	10
1854	37,039	15	0

This table is perhaps the most satisfactory proof I could afford your Lordship that this district is steadily progressing.

20. I may here mention that the total exports of Colonial and Foreign products from this district in 1854 was in value 43,599*l.* 2*s.*

21. A very large increase has again taken place in the quantity of wool exported. Last year its value amounted to 5,141*l.* 15*s.*; whereas that of 1853 was 3,556*l.*, and that of 1851, 300*l.* The greater portion of this export, however, was produced beyond the boundaries of the district.

V.—*Climate.*

THE WEATHER at PIETERMARITZBURG, 2,114 Feet above Mean Level of the Sea.

TABLE I.

1854.	Number of Days Cloudy or Misty throughout.	Number of Days clear throughout.	Number of Days clear in Forenoon.	Number of Days clear in Afternoon.	Number of Days in which Rain fell.	Number of Days in which Thunder and Lightning occurred.	Total Fall of Rain in each Month.
							In. Dec.
January	20	1	10	2	17	10	4·289
February	16	4	14	6	15	9	7·524
March	17	7	16	7	13	7	3·289
April	6	14	16	18	8	5	1·565
May	6	13	18	20	6	1	1·282
June	2	18	24	22	4	0	4·055
July	0	27	30	27	0	0	0·000
August	4	18	25	21	2	2	0·256
September	4	17	26	10	6	3	1·550
October	11	13	13	13	12	5	8·424
November	10	4	23	8	14	6	7·752
December	8	5	23	8	17	14	10·710
Totals	104	141	238	162	114	62	50·696

TABLE II.—AN ANALYSIS of the Direction of the Winds, with reference only to the Period of their Duration.

1854.	Forenoon.				Afternoon.				Total in each Month.			
	W.	S.	E.	N.	W.	S.	E.	N.	W.	S.	E.	N.
January	135	493	1,242	560	47	424	1,450	209	182	917	2,672	769
February	112	224	1,178	754	88	610	1,062	310	200	834	2,240	1 069
March	362	538	1,232	262	856	674	1,084	376	1,018	1,212	2,316	638
April	858	560	520	270	880	670	452	268	1,738	1,230	972	558
May	1,380	708	498	178	720	750	906	224	2,100	1,458	1,404	402
June	1,336	892	428	44	292	556	1,518	288	1,628	1,448	1,946	332
July	1,466	1,078	180	158	134	244	1,100	572	1,580	1,322	1,880	730
August	518	650	1,176	446	220	652	1,562	466	738	1,302	2,738	912
September	538	946	904	402	226	514	1,474	468	764	1,460	2,398	870
October	610	314	1,268	598	452	356	1,198	604	1,062	670	2,466	1,202
November	566	342	1,428	464	656	308	1,086	516	1,222	550	2.514	980
December	180	354	1,608	464	158	446	1,674	512	338	800	3,282	976
Totals	8,041	6,999	11,662	4,620	4,729	6,204	15,186	4,813	12,770	13,203	26,848	9,433

22. As shown in the accompanying tables, the seasons appear to be tolerably well defined. Comparatively little rain falls in the winter months. When, however, precipitation occurs in that season, it is usually of the character of the winter rains prevailing at the Cape of Good Hope, and unattended by great electrical disturbances, as in the other seasons. The annual rain fall, amounting only to fifty inches, is moderate. The greatest quantity in twenty-four hours rarely amounts to three inches; and the great number of perfectly and partially clear days is such as gives the climate features peculiar to tropical and intertropical regions. As shown in Table II., the wind blows longer from the eastward than from any other quarter; contrary to the popular belief that the moisture comes from the west, the east wind reaches its monthly maximum duration in the wet season, and descends to its minimum in the opposite or dry season. The ranges of the atmospheric pressure do not exceed eight tenths of an inch, and of the temperature eighty

degrees. Much, however, has yet to be learned on this important subject. I am happy, however, to observe that several meteorological stations have been established in various parts of the district, the results of which may occupy the attention of the Local Government on future occasions.

VI.—*Administration of Justice.*

23. The following returns show the number of cases, civil or criminal, disposed of in the District Court, from 1846 to 1854 inclusive:—

Civil Return.

Year.	Number of Original Final Decisions.	Number of Provisional Judgments.	Number of Decisions on Motions.	Number of Appeals from Magistrates.	Total.
1846	31	40	37	–	108
1847	14	8	32	–	54
1848	12	5	20	–	37
1849	14	21	32	–	67
1850	16	19	37	1	73
1851	19	35	34	–	88
1852	27	48	79	6	160
1853	15	20	53	7	95
1854	5	18	78	3	104

Criminal Return.

Year.	Murder.	Manslaughter.	Administering Poison with intent to Murder.	Rape.	Arson.	Sodomy.	Housebreaking and Theft.	Housebreaking with intent to Steal.	Theft.	Receiving Stolen Goods.	Fraud.	Perjury.	Forgery.	Assault.	Total.
1846	3	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	12	—	—	—	—	9	29
1847	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	7
1848	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
1849	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	4
1850	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	6
1851	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	6
1852	4	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	1	1	—	12
1853	8	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	15
1854	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	2	—	—	2	15

With reference to this last return, it is important to bear in mind the explanation given by Lieut.-Governor Pine, in a note on a former report,—that the increase in the number of convictions in late years is to be taken as an indication, not of an increase in crime, but of more efficient means of detecting and punishing offenders.

(Signed) Colonel H. Cooper,
Acting Lieutenant Governor.

APPENDIX.

Sir, Pietermaritzburg, May 2, 1855.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st July 1853, appointing us Commissioners for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting on the state of education in this district, and of your subsequent letter of 20th March last on the same subject.

With reference to the inquiries which we were instructed to make into the state and efficiency of the various Government schools, and of those receiving Government aid, we beg to refer to the reports of various sub-committees appointed from our number to examine the several schools then in existence.

We beg further to state, that at our last meeting on the 4th ultimo, after a lengthy discussion, we found ourselves unable to agree upon the terms of our final report; and it was therefore resolved that separate reports, containing the different views of the members of the Commission, should be drawn up, and we have now the honour to submit those reports for the information of his Honour the Acting Lieutenant Governor.

We have, &c.

(Signed) W. C. Sargeaunt, President.
James Green.
H. Pearse.
W. Campbell.
H. E. Faure.

Report of the undersigned members of the Commission appointed by letter of 21st July 1853 to report upon the State of Education in this district:—The Commissioners having been requested by letter from the Colonial Secretary, dated the 20th March 1855, to report upon that portion of the subject alluded to in the 6th paragraph of their letter of appointment, in which they are requested to suggest such a system of general education as may seem desirable and practicable.

Your Commissioners, with a view of forming a judgment on the point respecting which their opinion has been especially invited, have made some inquiries as to the state of education in the district, and find that two systems have been adopted by the Government:—

1st. At Pietermaritzburg and at D'Urban schools have been established and supported entirely by the Government, excepting a small fee paid weekly by the pupils.

2d. The Government has assisted schools in various places with annual grants, varying from 30*l.* to 50*l.*

The two schools at Pietermaritzburg and D'Urban have been examined by sub-committees appointed by the Commission, whose reports are referred to, and from which it appears that the average cost to Government of each child at Pietermaritzburg is nearly 3*l.* per annum, and the same at D'Urban. The Committee nevertheless report the school at Pietermaritzburg to be in an inefficient state from want of a larger staff of teachers; whilst the school at D'Urban is maintained in its present condition by a very considerable monthly outlay on the part of the master. The conclusion, therefore, to be drawn from both reports is, that the Government expenditure of 3*l.* per annum per child is insufficient, notwithstanding that the education is quite rudimentary, and nothing beyond what would be required in any school, wherever founded, in the district.

Your Commissioners understanding the population of the district to be at least 130,000, feel it impossible to recommend to the Government to adopt a system for which its resources are so inadequate.

Your Commissioners are strengthened in this conclusion by observing that at Pietermaritzburg the Government school educates about 90 children; the Wesleyan and Independent schools, which are partially assisted by the Government, educate together about 90 also.

The Church of England school and various private schools educate together about 180; or, 90 children in the Government school cost about 3*l.* per annum each; 90 ditto, Wesleyan and Independent, 1*l.* per annum each; 180 children in other schools cost nil.

Your Commissioners, seeing that in Pietermaritzburg one out of four go to the Government school, infer that the other schools must enjoy the confidence of the public at least to the same amount as the Government school.

It might probably be possible by an increased expenditure to place the Government school on such a footing as would drain the other schools of their scholars; but your Commissioners do not perceive any principle on which they can make such a recommendation.

Your Commissioners therefore turn to the second system, viz., that of assisting schools, and find there are eight schools aided, of which

2 belong to the Wesleyan Society;
1 „ „ Congregationalists;
2 are under the direction of missionaries (viz., Messrs. Posselt and Allison);
1 at Ladysmith is kept by Mr. Scott, a Presbyterian minister, who receives 50*l.* as minister and teacher;
2 viz., at Richmond and Pine Town, may be termed lay or Government schools.

Of these eight, six are more or less completely connected with religious bodies. Observing this, and knowing that Missionary Societies consider it their especial duty to promote the education of heathen children, and finding also that the present master at D'Urban is in holy orders in the English Church, and that the late and present masters of the Government school at Pietermaritzburg held office in their respective communions, your Commissioners feel that whatever system is adopted, the education will fall generally into the hands of religious bodies or religious men. Seeing then that from want of funds the Government must fail in carrying out any system of education exclusively its own, and as the earnestness and zeal of religious societies will, it is to be feared, if left to itself, fail on the same account, your Commissioners therefore recommend a system of co-operation as best calculated to bring into action the energies existing in the colony, and most likely to extend education furthest, with the limited resources at the disposal of the Government.

Your Commissioners therefore recommend the adoption of the following scheme, premising that they understand a laudable effort is being made in one county to originate within itself a school for the education of the children of the farmers and settlers:—

1st. That the district Government should have no schools exclusively its own.

2d. That religious societies, county councils, and town corporations establishing schools should be assisted on a graduated scale.

3d. That private schools might be assisted on the recommendation of either of the three bodies above mentioned.

4th. That the scale might be as follows:—

A school containing 30 children might receive 30*l.*

For every additional 10 children, 10*l.*

No school to receive more than 100*l.*

5th. That the Government have a discretionary power to receive or reject any application for assistance.

6th. That the resident magistrate, personally or by deputy, examine annually all schools within his division receiving assistance, and report to the Government.

7. That in every school receiving aid, the Holy Scriptures be read, and the school opened and closed daily with prayer.

Your Commissioners are aware, that were the education of all classes in the colony to become general, the proposed expenditure of 1*l.* per annum per head would exceed the resources of the Government; but your Commissioners can only look forward to education spreading gradually, and consider in the present state of the district a lower scale would fail of its object, whilst suggestion No. 5 places it in the power of Government to withhold by degrees its assistance from wealthy towns, and to throw its energies into the poorer parts of the district.

(Signed) W. C. Sargeaunt, President.
James Green.

Pietermaritzburg, 1st May 1855.

Report of the undersigned Commissioners of Education in Natal.

To his Honour Colonel Cooper, Acting Lieutenant Governor, Natal.

May it please your Honour,

We, the undersigned Commissioners of Education in Natal, have to apologize for an apparent neglect of duty on our part in not sending in a report long ere now, as required by the authority of Lieutenant Governor Pine. In vindication of ourselves it seems necessary to state, that in common with our fellow Commissioners we promptly entered on the responsible duties imposed on us, and examined the various schools of the district in terms of the letter of instructions originally addressed to us. The materials for drawing up a report were thus prepared before the close of the year 1853, and it is no fault of ours that such report was not made in due time, as we were never convened for that purpose. We regret this delay the more on account of the diversity of opinion that now appears to exist among the Commissioners on some matters which we deem to be of vital importance.

As the sub-committees which were appointed for the greater convenience of the business of the Commission had already reported separately to the general body, it was unanimously agreed that these should be transmitted in their original state. As these reports contain the statistics and general topics connected with the schools supported either in whole or part by Government, we shall confine ourselves for the present to a brief statement of their number and operations.

I. At the period of our appointment in 1853 there were the two public schools of Pietermaritzburg and D'Urban, commonly called Government schools, being rented and endowed by the local Government, the former at an annual expense of 259*l.*, and the latter at 260*l.* Besides these there were two other schools, one at Richmond and the other at Pine Town, receiving each a partial endowment of 50*l.* per annum; one infant school in Pietermaritzburg receiving the same amount, and one at Verulam, for European and coloured children, receiving 40*l.* per annum.

These were all examined by the Commissioners, and upon the whole were found in a satisfactory state. A glance at the reports by the sub-committees will show the number of scholars in attendance, the branches usually taught, and the efficiency of the teachers. It will also appear from these reports that the want of a sufficient supply of books and other school requisites appeared, in the estimation of the examinators, greatly to paralyze the efforts of the teachers, and to retard the progress of the children. Entering fully into this opinion, we shall hereafter suggest a remedy. Since the above-named schools were first examined by us, several others have been actually endowed, or have received the promise of partial aid from Government, viz., one coloured school at the Edendale (Rev. Mr. Allison's) Mission Station, receiving 50*l.* per annum, one coloured school in Pietermaritzburg (under the management of a committee of the subscribers of various denominations of Christians), receiving 40*l.* per annum; one school at New Germany for European children, receiving also 40*l.* per annum; one school at Ladysmith, recently established, receiving 50*l.*, and one at York promised the same amount; as also an application on behalf of the Educational Institution at present in course of erection at Grey

Town. None of these last-named schools (of which some are not yet in operation) have been examined by the Commissioners, with the exception of the coloured school in Pietermaritzburg, before it received Government aid. From this brief statement it will appear that the Government have not only supported two public schools in the two chief towns of Pietermaritzburg and D'Urban, but have also granted liberal aid to the various other above-named schools, which are all conducted on the same broad and non-sectarian basis.

II. In consequence of the adverse opinion expressed by some members of the Commission in regard to the two Government schools of Pietermaritzburg and D'Urban, we are the more anxious to direct your Honour's special attention to them. As none of the undersigned were present at the last examination of the D'Urban Government school, we cannot speak from personal knowledge of its efficiency; yet we are happy to say that the sub-committee who lately examined it have, by their report, conveyed a much more favourable impression of its present condition, than when it was examined in 1853. With regard to the public school of Pietermaritzburg, we have no hesitation in giving it as our opinion, after a second examination, that it is conducted at present with great efficiency by Mr. Thomson, and supplies to all classes the advantages of education, without reference to sect or party. It would appear that the number of children attending this seminary has fallen off to some extent during the past year; but this we believe has been occasioned by the opening of another public school in the immediate vicinity, under the auspices of the Church of England. Still the Government school maintains its position in public estimation, as appears from the fact that 117 children have attended it for instruction in the course of the year ending 31st December 1854, with an average attendance of 91. Now that the salary of the master is reduced from 240*l.* per annum to 150*l.* we would recommend that an assistant or second master should be assigned to this school, in order that the head master may have it in his power to devote more time and attention to classics and mathematics, &c. Mr. Thomson has been obliged to supply the place of an assistant master during the past year, in taking charge of the junior classes; and the master also pays out of the school fees a mistress, who takes charge of the female industrial department. This last-named branch we consider of great importance, and one that deserves special encouragement from the Government.

We would here remark that it appears to us the schoolroom is at present encumbered with extraneous furniture. Space needful for the proper classification and comfort of the children is thus occupied, and the back door giving access to the offices and playground thereby blocked up. We would therefore suggest the removal of this furniture, at all events during school hours.

The gallery used for conducting the general lessons (in accordance with the modern system of training) is unsightly and unsafe, and requires much to be remodelled.

We would further suggest that the playground be properly laid out and enclosed; also that a simple apparatus be provided for gymnastics and other exercises, so advantageous to the physical and moral training of the pupils. It is further necessary that the out-door offices for the female children be entirely separated from those used by the boys. These indispensable improvements we conceive may be effected at a comparatively trifling cost, and would render still more efficient an institution which has hitherto afforded the advantages of an united secular and scriptural education free from all sectarian bias; and we trust the period is not distant when this seminary will be supplied with two masters, and a mistress for the industrial female department, so as to render it substantially a model training school for supplying the country districts with teachers, and thus at once help to keep up the standard of education, and also to diffuse its benefits over the colony at large.

III. With respect to the sixth paragraph contained in the letter of instructions addressed to us originally by authority of Lieut. Governor Pine, and to which our special attention has been recently directed by your Honour as Acting Lieutenant Governor, we beg respectfully to report, that having taken the subject contained in the said paragraph into our serious consideration in all its bearings, we are most decidedly of opinion that the Government, instead of itself establishing and exclusively maintaining public schools, may also with great advantage render pecuniary assistance to schools already established or to be established by private exertion, upon the following conditions, viz.:—

1. That such schools be under the management of local committees, fairly representing the interests of the parents or children in their respective neighbourhoods or townships.

2. That the parties soliciting Government aid be required to prove that there are at least fifteen children in the place without the means of instruction, and consequently that the new erection does not interfere with any other school receiving Government aid.

3. That the teacher, on whose behalf such gratuity is solicited, be first examined and approved of by the Commissioners of Education before any grant of public money be made.

4. That the recipients of such Government aid undertake to pursue in their schools the same system of secular education as in the present Government schools, subject simply to the condition that some portion of the Holy Scriptures shall be daily read in the vernacular tongue. And

5. That all schools receiving Government aid, in addition to the supervision of their own local committees, be subject to the periodical inspection of the Commissioners of Education, or of some officer specially appointed for that purpose. On this head we would suggest—

1. That, instead of regulating the gratuities by the amount of money arising from school fees and other private sources, the several teachers be classified and paid in proportion to their respective merit and the importance of the neighbourhoods in which they labour.

2. In consequence of the present inadequate supply of books and other school requisites, and the extreme difficulty of procuring such things in this district through any private channel, we would respectfully recommend your Honour to devise some plan for procuring the necessary supply for all schools receiving aid from the public treasury. We understand the Commissioners of National Education for Ireland are in the habit of granting supplies at cost price to the colonies, when applied to; and we are of opinion that if your Honour's Government would make such an application they would thereby do much to advance the interests of education in Natal, and might have the necessary advances of money repaid by requiring the several teachers to dispose of the school requisites at such a price as would cover the original outlay.

3. We would also give it as our opinion that a permanent board of education be appointed, fairly representing the religious and educational interests of the community of this district.

IV. Our remarks, we fear, have already extended too far, yet a sense of the paramount importance of the subject in hand constrains us to crave your Honour's indulgence for a few moments more. Called upon to report on matters vitally concerning the spiritual and temporal interests of our infant community, and confident that we give expression to the educational views of a large majority of the inhabitants of European descent in Natal, we would deeply deplore the up-breaking of the present Government schools, or the introduction of the sectarian element into a system which, up to this period, has wrought so harmoniously.

At a time when such a distinguished statesman as Lord John Russell, and others of every shade of religious and political opinions (whose views command respect), are labouring throughout Great Britain so strenuously to establish and promote a system of united and non-sectarian education, and when Sir George Grey seems to be pursuing a similar course in seeking to elevate and extend the blessings of education throughout the Cape Colony; we earnestly hope that nothing will influence your Honour's Government to turn aside from the liberal and enlightened course hitherto pursued, or tempt them to introduce such discordant elements as must necessarily compel the various religious denominations amongst us to erect separate schools for the education of the children of their own peculiar sect; but that, following the example of the mother country, the local Government will labour yet more strenuously to extend the blessings of civilization without distinction among all classes of the community in this distant part of Her Majesty's empire.

Should, however, your Honour dissent from the views above expressed, and rather incline to give effect to those entertained by the members of Commission differing from us in opinion, while deprecating such a result, deeply impressed with the mischievous consequences which in our apprehension would inevitably ensue, we would therefore pray your Honour to submit this our report to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, before the adoption of any measure contrary to the system of Government education as hitherto pursued in Natal, to the principles laid down in Lieutenant Governor Pine's Letter of Instructions to the Commissioners of Education, and contrary to the views which we, the undersigned Commissioners of Education for Natal, have thus laid before your Honour.

(Signed) H. E. Faure.
H. Pearse.
W. Campbell.

Pietermaritzburg,
May 2, 1855.

PART IV.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

PART IV.—AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 31.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 31.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir W. Denison to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, M.P.

(No. 132.) Government House, Sydney, August 23, 1855.

My Lord, (Received December 29, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for the year 1854, and to submit the following remarks to your Lordship upon some of the subjects which are brought therein under notice.

Taxes and Duties.

1. These are the same as were raised in 1853, with the exception of the duty on spirits, which was raised by the Act 18 Vict. No. 24.; brandy and gin from 6*s.* to 9*s.* per gallon; whiskey and rum from 4*s.* to 6*s.* The duty upon spirits distilled in the colony was by the same Act raised from 3*s.* 8*d.* to 5*s.* 8*d.* per gallon, the remission of 4*d.* per gallon being allowed in order to cover the duty upon the sugar used by the distillers.

2. The revenue for the year 1854 under the various heads, as shown by the Table, amounted to 640,718*l.* 8*s.* Of this the sum contributed by the customs was 405,720*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, and the duty upon colonially distilled spirits amounted to 35,550*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

3. The expenditure, as shown under separate heads, amounted to 750,293*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, showing an excess of expenditure over income of 109,575*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* This, however, was covered by the unappropriated balance to the credit of the revenue on 1st January 1854, amounting to 139,791*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*; the balance, therefore, to the credit of the revenue, on 1st January 1855, was 30,216*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

4. The statement of the revenue and expenditure of the fund reserved by schedule A. of the imperial Act 13 and 14 Vict. cap. 59. shows that it has been necessary to supplement these schedules out of the territorial revenues to a great extent. The sum taken from this source to supplement part 1. of schedule (A.) appears to have amounted to 13,769*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*; but there appears to have been a balance in hand on the 1st January 1855 of 3,355*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, to the credit of this head of the schedule. The sum borrowed to supplement head 2. was 11,807*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*; this, however, left a balance of 1,973*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* to the credit of this head.

5. The police reward fund shows a steady increase; the balance in hand at the commencement of the year being 2,530*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, and at the end, after paying all the claims made upon it for gratuities to the police themselves for meritorious conduct, length of service, &c., and to the widows of some who died, there was a balance of 4,814*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*

6. The territorial revenue for 1854 reached 557,735*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*; of this, however, 214,679*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* was borrowed, the actual receipt from the sale and leasing of crown lands amounted to 343,055*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*; there was a balance of 122,307*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* available at the beginning of the year; making a total of 680,042*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* on the credit side of the account, while the expenditure under the various heads shown reached 627,984*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, leaving thus a balance of 52,057*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* to the credit of the revenue on 1st January 1855. In pages 104 and 105 of the Blue Book, an account is given of the debt chargeable on the territorial revenue, which amounted on the 1st January 1855 to 372,000*l.* for immigration, the interest of which is 17,170*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* yearly In addition, however, to this, other sums, amounting in all to 200,000*l.*, have been borrowed on the credit of this revenue, for the purpose of assisting the Sydney and Hunter River railway companies, the annual interest payable on which is 9,797*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.* The Government has also guaranteed to the share-

holders in these railways interest at the rate of five per cent. to the Sydney company, and four per cent. to the Hunter River company, under which head an annual payment of 8,722*l.* can be claimed. However, by an Act passed in the course of the session of 1854, the Government has been empowered to purchase the stock of these two railway companies; and the amount which has been advanced to them, together with that required for the purchase of the stock, must be looked upon as a permanent debt for the construction of the railways in question, the interest of which will, it is trusted, be more than paid in a few years from the profits derived from the traffic upon them.

7. The emigrants sent out in accordance with the conditions of the Act 16 Vict. No. 42., amended by the Act 18 Vict. No. 29., have repaid a portion of the cost of their passage. A sum of 18,566*l.* was received from them in the course of the year.

8. The table showing the state of the railway deposits account on the 31st December 1854 serves to indicate the rate at which the capital of the two companies was subscribed and applied. As these railways have been purchased by the Government, this table will not find a place in future Blue Books.

9. The revenue arising from the leasing of the clergy and school estates is increasing slowly; but there is ample demand for this revenue were it twenty times as great as at present. The net balance in the Treasury on the 1st January 1855 appears to have been 5,426*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* This, however, will be absorbed in the demands made by the different religious communities for extension of means to provide religious instruction, and to give aid to schools.

10. On comparing the revenue of 1854 with that of the previous year, the increase will appear to have been very great. The receipts for 1853 were 987,476*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, including, not only the proceeds from the sale and leasing of Crown lands, but also 158,752*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* from the sale of debentures. The revenue of 1854 amounted to 1,239,147*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.*, of which 234,678*l.* 15*s.* was borrowed. The actual increase in the receipts from the ordinary sources of revenue was 175,743*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, or about twenty-one per cent. On reference to the particular items it will be seen that the increase in the duties upon imported articles was 50,782*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, or about twelve and a half per cent. The receipts from the duty on colonial spirits show an increase of 6,795*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, or about twenty-three per cent. The increase of population from various sources would account for an increase of about 8·6 per cent.; the remainder must be due to the increased consumption among the population generally, the high rates of wages having placed at the disposal of the working classes a large amount of money to expend upon articles of luxury; for instance, the spirits consumed in 1853 amounted to 1,600,311 gallons, or at the rate of 6·9 gallons per individual, while in 1854 the consumption was 1,800,552 gallons, or at the rate of 7·16 gallons per individual. In the same way, 1,598,412 lbs. of tobacco were consumed in 1853, while the quantity in 1854 amounted to 1,831,864 lbs.; an increase of fourteen and a half per cent. The explanation, however, given in the margin of the table of the cause of the increase or decrease under each head, is sufficiently clear to render any further comment unnecessary.

11. The expenditure in 1853 is stated to have been 682,621*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, while that of 1854 is shown to have reached 1,136,568*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, the increase amounting to 453,947*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, being an addition of sixty-six per cent. to the expenditure of 1853. On analysing, however, this extraordinary increase, it will be seen that nearly half of it is due to the additional outlay upon the public works, and for the introduction of immigrants, the expenditure upon the former of these having exceeded that of 1853 by 104,884*l.*, and upon the latter by 117,820*l.* There is, however, an increase shown upon nearly every item of expenditure; and this can be traced to the rise in the price of labour, and consequently of the means of subsistence; a necessary result of the discovery of gold in this and in the adjoining colony.

12. The expenditure on account of the superintendence and maintenance of convicts originally sent from England amounted in 1854 to 9,214*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* Of these there appear to have been 68 male and female invalids, 103 male and female lunatics, while 53 were either under sentence of hard labour or under detention. The number of these latter will of course decrease rapidly; but an increase in the number of lunatics and invalids may perhaps be expected.

13. Under the head of local revenues, the money received from tolls upon the different roads throughout the colony is included. These roads are under

NEW SOUTH WALES

the management of local trustees, and it is unnecessary for me to enter into any specific details with regard to these tolls or their application, further than to say that the roads of the colony are in a most wretched state, and that the funds raised by tolls, supplemented as they are by large grants from the general revenue, are altogether inadequate to maintain them in a decent state of repair. The main local revenues, however, are those which are placed in the hands of commissioners, to be employed in paving, lighting, draining, and supplying with water the city of Sydney. These funds are derived in the first place from rates levied under the authority of different Acts of Council, from the rent of markets, and from fines and fees, and in the second from an endowment granted from the general revenue. The receipts under all these heads appear to have amounted to 35,917*l.* 14*s.* in 1854; while the expenditure, in consequence of the very heavy outlay for the repair of streets and city improvements, exceeded the receipts to the extent of 15,782*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* The accounts of the receipts and expenditure for the supply of water and for the sewerage of the city of Sydney are kept separate, large works having been commenced under the authority of the Acts of Council, 17 Vict. No. 34. and 35., for bringing an ample supply of water into the city, and for carrying out an effective system of sewerage. The funds for these works are provided for by loans, the interest of which is secured upon the general revenue of the colony, but which will be subsequently defrayed out of the proceeds of special rates which the Commissioners are authorized to levy.

14. Under the head military expenditure the works of defence for Sydney Harbour have been enumerated, as proposed by Lieut.-Colonel Gordon, R.E., and in part sanctioned by the legislature. The works at Middle and South Heads were commenced, but have been suspended, as it has been thought better to commence with those which more immediately contribute to the defence of the city. The outlay on these works has amounted to 4,210*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, under the authority of an Act of Council, 18 Vict. No. 8. Some cavalry, artillery, and riflemen have been embodied as volunteers. The numbers mustering for each of these services are not great; but the men drill pretty regularly, and have shown themselves able to manœuvre steadily in connexion with the regular troops.

15. The principal public works upon which any large outlay of money has been made in the course of 1854 are, "the mint," "the public abattoir on Glebe Island," "the dry dock on Cockatoo Island," "the circular quay around a portion of Sydney Cove." The mint has been completed, and the machinery is now at work. The abattoir will, it is hoped, be in operation in the course of 1856. The dry dock on Cockatoo Island, and the works in connexion with it, have been carried on satisfactorily, and will probably be completed in 1856. The work at the circular quay was nearly completed in 1854, but the cost appears to have been in excess of the estimate. The total amount expended upon the various public works in 1854 was 139,003*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

16. Under the head of education the returns show that 203 schools have been in operation during the year 1854, on the books of which 18,404 children have entered their names. The expenditure upon these schools amounted to 32,319*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, of which 20,181*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* were contributed by the Government, and 12,158*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* were derived from private sources, including, of course, payments made by the parents of the children. The average cost of each school may be taken at 160*l.* per annum; and if the actual expenditure be divided by the number of children on the books, the charge for each would appear to be about 1*l.* 15*s.* per annum. I am bound, however, to inform your Lordship, that I am by no means satisfied with the character of the education dispensed to the children under the present system. There is ample evidence to prove that a radical change must take place in all the arrangements connected with the schools before any satisfactory results can be anticipated; and the subject will be one of the earliest which will be brought by me under the consideration of the legislature.

17. The value of the imports of the colony during the year 1854 is estimated at 5,981,063*l.*; a reduction on the value of those of the preceding year of 361,364*l.* I may remark, however, that these values, being founded on the invoice prices of the goods, are not to be depended upon to any extent for the purpose of establishing a comparison between the importations of different years; for instance, the value of the tobacco imported in 1854 is taken at 100,472*l.*, while in 1853 it was estimated at 139,014*l.*, indicating a falling off

in the value in 1854 to the extent of 38,542*l.* On reference, however, to the quantities in the two years, it will be seen that in 1853 there were 1,598,412 lbs. of tobacco imported, while in 1854 the quantity was 1,800,864 lbs.; an increase of 202,452 lbs.; so that while the quantity increased to the extent of 12·6 per cent., the value decreased to the extent of 28 per cent. A reduction corresponding to that which has affected the imports of the colony has taken place in the exports; the value of these in 1854 amounting to 4,050,126*l.*, while in 1853 the value was taken at 4,523,346*l.*; a difference of 473,220*l.* or 10¼ per cent. This diminution in the value of the exports is due to a falling off in the quantity of gold sent to England. In 1853 the value of this was estimated at 1,781,172*l.*, while in 1854 this amounted to 773,209*l.*; a reduction of 1,007,963*l.*; so that, abstracting the gold, the return of exports would show an increase of 534,743*l.* or about 19½ per cent.

On reference to the particular items it will be seen that a great addition has been made to the quantity of wool exported; the weight as shown in the table for 1853 being 16,477,869 lbs., while in 1854 it is shown as 18,976,300 lbs.; an increase of 2,498,431 lbs., or upwards of fifteen per cent., indicating a corresponding increase in the number of sheep, and consequently in the extent of land occupied for pastoral purposes.

19. Under the head of agriculture there would appear to be an increase in the land under cultivation to the extent of 7,409 acres. The quantity of land under wheat is stated at 74,537 acres, and the yield in bushels at 1,334,541, or at the rate of 17·9, or, say, eighteen bushels per acre. The quantity of wheat required to feed the population of this colony, which according to the returns may be taken at 251,315, cannot be put at less than eight bushels per head, or about 2,000,000 bushels, which would require for its production about 112,000 acres of average land; and as the increase to the population during the last year, as shown in page 827, amounted to 20,000, or about twelve and a half per cent., an addition should be made to the wheat land of about 10,000 acres annually. The increase during the last year has only been to the extent of 7,409 acres, of which about 3,000 has been devoted to the production of food for cattle. The result of an analysis of the whole return will show that the colony is more than ever dependent upon other countries for its supply of food.

20. Under the head of manufactures, mines, and fisheries, it is only necessary to notice that the coal trade has increased in the course of the year, and that a very rapid development of that branch of industry will probably be exhibited, as the demand for coal is increasing daily, and that increased facilities will be given for bringing it to market by the railway now in course of construction at Newcastle.

There is a falling of, as before stated, in the quantity of gold exported. In future years this return will be useless, as a large quantity of the gold raised in the colony will be coined at the mint, and will not in the returns be distinguished from other gold coin exported.

21. There appears to be a steady increase in the amount of the land sold, 73,675 acres having been brought to market in 1853, while the quantity in the return for 1854 is 83,396 acres. The amount realized in 1853 was 257,847*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, and in 1854, 272,078*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* As increased facilities are given to the settlers in the interior to bring down their produce to market, by the introduction of railroads and such easy and rapid means of communication, so will the demand for land increase and the value which it will bring in the market, and so will the supply of produce available for the support of the population be brought more on a par with the demand.

22. The return of gaols and prisoners is in the usual form; but some great change will be required shortly in all the arrangements for secondary punishments. At present these are made in some sort to harmonize with the old rules, by which the prisoners sentenced to transportation have a portion of their punishment remitted, by the issue of indulgences in the shape of tickets of leave and conditional pardons; but as the sentence of transportation is now commuted into certain periods of imprisonment with hard labour, the rules which applied to the transported convict cease to be applicable to the prisoner under a colonial sentence of imprisonment, and require to be essentially modified.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

23. A copy of the Tables, showing the statistics of the colony for the last ten years, has been appended to the Blue Book. A reference to these will show at a glance the rate at which the colony has progressed, and the mode in which the various branches of industry have been acted upon by the altered circumstances of the colony. The addition will I think prove useful, being in fact a summary of the information contained in former Blue Books, arranged and classified under proper heads, and thus affording facilities for comparison, which would otherwise require the expenditure of a good deal of labour.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

W. DENISON.

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA.

No. 32.

No. 32.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Charles Hotham to the Right Hon. Sir George Grey.

(No. 19.)

Toorac, near Melbourne, January 25, 1855.

Sir, (Received April 7, 1855.)

I have the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book of this colony for the year ended on the 31st December 1853.

Referring, as its contents do, to the condition of the colony at a period antecedent to my assuming the government, I can scarcely be expected to dwell at any length upon details; but I may be permitted to notice briefly some of the more interesting heads as they appear on the face of these returns.

Taxes—Duties.

2. The amount of revenue derived from the duties on spirits was, in

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	561,317	11	7
1852 - - -	186,491	15	6
Showing an increase of -	£374,825	16	1

which, I am informed, is attributable to the increase of population, and the augmented wealth of the inhabitants of the colony.

3. The duties on tobacco were in the year

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	118,869	5	9
1852 - - - -	69,338	14	8
Showing an increase of -	£49,530	11	1

which is attributable to the same cause.

4. The whole of the Customs duties amounted in the year

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	773,473	16	11
1852 - - - -	318,981	17	7
Showing an increase of -	£454,491	19	4

5. The port and harbour dues were abolished at the latter part of 1852, with the exception of pilotage, under the provisions of the Act of Council 16 Vict., No. 12. The *pilotage* amounted to in the year

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	15,672	11	1
1852 - - - -	11,786	3	3
Showing an increase of -	£3,886	7	10

Post Offices.

6. The revenue produced by this department, and the expenditure, stand thus:

	Revenue. £	s.	d.	Expenditure. £	s.	d.
1853	25,733	12	11	73,036	1	0
1852	12,453	12	9	25,312	0	8

Newspapers (under certain restrictions) were exempted from postage.

Fees of Office.

7. The revenue derived from this source was, in

	£	s.	d.
1853	21,268	12	6
1852	9,089	1	2
Showing an increase of	£12,179	11	4

This increase principally is stated to have arisen from the additional population and augmented business.

8. The assessment on stock beyond the settled districts, under the Act of Council, 11 Vict., No. 18, expired on 31st December 1852.

9. The *fees on licences* to occupy Crown Lands, which are part of the Crown Revenue, were in

	£	s.	d.
1853	29,860	1	9
1852	23,815	1	7
Showing an increase of	£6,045	0	2

Arising from the number of annual leases, consequent upon the spreading of the inhabitants.

Those on licences to cut timber, or camp on Crown Lands, produced in

	£	s.	d.
1853	12,166	8	1
1852	1,719	15	6
Showing an increase of	£10,446	12	7

10. The *Gold Fund*, including escort fees and custody fees, amounting to, in

	£	s.	d.
1853	720,814	18	7
1852	438,845	10	0
Showing an increase of	£281,969	8	7

Consequent upon the number of licences and escort fees.

11. The *Total General Revenue*, including the gold Revenue was, in

	£	s.	d.
1853	1,648,309	16	4
1852	846,214	17	7
Showing an increase of	£802,094	18	9

Crown Revenue.

12. The territorial revenue produced in 1853:—

	£	s.	d.
Land sales	1,496,714	9	1
Licences and leases to occupy Crown Lands	29,860	1	9
Licences to cut timber, &c.	12,166	8	1
Immigration remittances	3,260	15	6
Rents of quarries, &c.	2,706	1	4
Proceeds of sales	122	15	6
Miscellaneous receipts	8,998	19	0
	£1,553,829	10	3

The charges on the same revenue in 1853 were:—

	£	s.	d.
Survey sale, and management	36,908	5	8
Immigration	185,879	3	2
Aborigines	2,712	13	7
Special grants	5,075	19	9
Miscellaneous payments	15,249	1	0
	£245,825	3	2

13. The accounts of the colony are kept in pounds, shillings, and pence sterling.

Local Revenue.

15. The total revenue of the City of Melbourne amounted, in 1853, to 109,636*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, and the town of Geelong amounted to 20,549*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*

Military.

16. The expenditure incurred by the colony for its military protection, in 1853, was 74,090*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, as reported by the Deputy Assistant Commissary General (see page 90).

Pensions.

17. The pension list for 1853 amounted to 1,364*l.*

18. The foreign Consuls in Melbourne, in the year 1853, were those of Portugal, &c., Free Hanseatic City of Hamburgh, Sweden, Norway, Spain, Republic of Chili, Denmark, United States of America, Belgium, Netherlands, and France.

Population.

19. Population was as follows on 31st December:

1851.	1852.	1853.
83,350	148,627	198,496.

Supposed number of aborigines, 2,500; but I would refer to the note on page 508.

Ecclesiastical.

20. The expenses under this head are, for the year 1853, 21,007*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

The number of clergymen in the colony is returned thus:

Church of England	22
Presbyterian	20
Wesleyan	11
Independent	13
Roman Catholic	22
Baptist	4
Other Protestants	3
Jews	1

Education.

21. The expenses during that year amounted to 40,291*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*

The number of scholars at the different schools is stated to be:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Denominational schools	5,316	4,201	9,517
National schools	955	798	1,753
Private schools	925	838	1,763
Total	7,196	5,837	13,033

Exchanges—Monies.

22. The paper currency in circulation was, in

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1852	849,434	10	7
1853	1,657,859	3	9

The coin and bullion in the colony cannot be ascertained.

Imports and Exports.

23. The imports amounted to,

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1853	15,842,637	0	0
1852	4,069,742	0	0
Showing an increase of	£11,772,895	0	0

The exports amounted to,

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1853	11,061,543	17	0
1852	7,451,549	0	0
Showing an increase of	£3,609,994	17	0

The gold exported during the year amounted to,

Quantity.	Value.
Oz. 2,497,723 15 16	£8,644,529

24. It only remains for me to add, that upon inquiry as to the cause of the long delay which has occurred in preparing this volume, it has been explained to me that it has arisen from the difficulty experienced in obtaining correct returns of some of the more valuable and interesting statistics.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. HOTHAM.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 33.

No. 33.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. E. F. Young to the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Baronet.

(No. 68.)

Government House, Hobart Town,
May 31, 1855.

Sir, (Received September 21, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the year 1854, and a condensed summary of the principal statistics of the year.

2. *The Population*

On the 31st December 1854 was 64,874; namely,—
22,661 male adults,
16,518 female adults, and
25,695 children.

The number of aborigines is 16.

The number of convicts in the island included in the above population was 11,718, of whom 8,408 are males and 3,310 females, and of these 2,947 were maintained by the Government; viz. 2,162 males and 785 females; the remaining 6,246 males and 2,525 females earn their own livelihood. 4,058 tickets-of-leave and 2,027 conditional pardons were granted in 1854.

The births were 2,603; viz. 1,339 males and 1,264 females.

The deaths of all ages (including 128 convicts), registered in 1854, were 2,056, of whom 1,149 were males and 779 females.

The marriages were 1,343; of these 331 were widowers or widows, and 228 were under age. In 1,073 cases the registers were signed by marks. 685 marriages took place in Hobart Town, and 225 in Launceston.

3. *Immigration.*

4,172 immigrants were introduced at the public expense; 5,353 paid their own passages. 11,280 persons left the island in 1854; viz., 7,281 men, 1,885 women, and 481 children, for the colony of Victoria; 943 adults and 121 children, for New South Wales; 100 adults and 17 children, for New Zealand; and 253 adults and 65 children, for Great Britain.

9,656 of those who left the colony in 1854 have always been free, and 1,624 had been convicts.

The first-named class of departures comprised 6,803 males, 2,147 females, and 706 children; the other class, 1,435 males and 189 females.

The excess of emigration over immigration in 1854 was 1,755 souls.

4. *Climate and Disease.*

The rainfall in 1854 was 30·56 inches. The mean temperature of the year was 53·03. The cases treated in the colonial hospitals were 3,449, of which 538 were diseases of the lungs. The total deaths were 168, of which 58 were from diseases of the lungs.

In the lunatic asylum, in 1854, there were 239 inmates, of whom 153 were convicts.

5. *Crime.*

In the supreme court there were 105 convictions for felonies and misdemeanors.

There were 7 criminals executed, of whom all were or had been convicts.

At the quarter sessions at Hobart Town, Launceston, New Norfolk, and Richmond, the number of convictions for offences against the person in 1854 were 35, and against property 138.

6. *Judicial.*

The judicial establishment cost, in 1854, 23,319*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

The civil cases tried in the supreme court in 1854 before juries were 40 in number. The actions tried in the various courts of request throughout the colony were 430. The expense of these courts to Government was 2,958*l.*

The police and gaols cost the Colonial Government, in 1854, 62,765*l.*, and the Imperial Government 24,000*l.*

The insolvencies in 1854 have been 43 in number.

The mortgages on land registered in 1854 were 293, for 316,463*l.*

7. *Public Worship and Education.*

The ecclesiastical establishment cost the Government, in 1854, 23,988*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

The number of schools aided by the Government was 50, the aid being 7,269*l.*

In the orphan schools there were 422 children, of whom 302 were charged to convict expenditure.

The establishment for 16 aborigines caused an expenditure of 2,006*l.* in 1854.

8. *Imports and Exports.*

The imports are valued at 2,604,680*l.*; viz.

	£
From Great Britain	1,776,694
From British colonies	696,296
From United States	36,078
From British North America	317
From foreign states	95,295

The exports are valued at 1,433,021*l.*, of which 1,219,021*l.* was the produce of the colony.

The portion exported to Great Britain was 424,575*l.*, and to British colonies 1,007,287*l.*

The tonnage inwards and outwards was 399,010 tons. The number of vessels built in the island was ten; the tonnage 401.

9 vessels engaged in the fisheries entered inwards of 2,690 tons, and 14 outwards of 3,680 tons.

The steam vessels registered at Hobart Town and Launceston in 1854 were two of wood and 9 of iron; tonnage 1,766; power 744. Some are employed between Tasmania and Victoria and New South Wales, and others as ferry or passenger boats on the rivers and coasts of the island.

9. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The colonial revenue was 275,554*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

The colonial expenditure was 276,650*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

The land revenue was 112,225*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*

The expenditure from the land fund was 89,681*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*

The coin in the colony is reckoned at 1,035,368*l.*; the assets of the banks at 2,409,845*l.*; their liabilities at 1,900,777*l.*

The post office revenue was 8,198*l.*; the expenditure 16,291*l.* The post offices and receiving houses are 65; the number of persons employed 95; the extent of post roads 679 miles. The letters sent from Hobart Town were 231,597; the newspapers 218,000; the letters received 204,414; the newspapers received 122,500.

There is a penny post in Hobart Town and Launceston. The postage is fourpence for every half ounce letter from one part of the colony to the other, and beyond it.

I have recently received a despatch from the Governor General of New South Wales, in which he suggests a combination among the Australian Colonies to establish monthly steam postage communication with Great Britain, each colony contributing in proportion to its share of the advantages to be derived from the measure.

Fulling concurring with Sir William Denison in the importance of establishing steam postal communication, I propose to suggest to the Legislative Council to vote 5,000*l.* as the contribution in aid from Tasmania, the principle upon

which my calculation is based being the proportion of population, and not the postal revenue derivable therefrom, the receipts for postage in 1854 from Great Britain being only 610*l.*

10. *Land Sales, Cultivation, Prices of Provisions, and Wages.*

Waste lands of the crown were sold in 1854 to the extent of 32,433 acres in country allotments, averaging 21*s.* 0¾*d.* per acre, and 2,245 acres of town and suburban allotments, averaging 18*l.* 13*s.* 8½*d.* per acre.

All sources of Crown land revenue realized 112,225*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* The cost of the survey department was 16,102*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

The number of acres held under depasturing licences was 2,284,214, giving a rental of 29,152*l.*

The extent of land reckoned to be under cultivation of all kinds in 1854 was 127,732 acres.

The number of sheep in the island was 1,831,308.

The wages of labour, from 5*s.* to 10*s.* per diem, without board and lodging, while the wages of skilled labour varied from 12*s.* to 16*s.* and even 20*s.* a day.

The price of flour was 38*l.* per ton, and is now 40*l.*; bread was 17*d.* the quartern loaf; meat from 6*d.* to 1*s.* a pound; wheat 16*s.* a bushel.

11. *Legislation.*

The laws enacted in 1854 were thirty in number, the titles of which are as follows:—

Hobart Town Buildings Regulation Act.
Judges Pension Act.
Deceased Persons Intestate Act Amendment.
Bonding Warehouse Charges Increase Act.
Patent Slip Act.
Retail Licences Act Continuation.
Assisted Emigrants Act.
Common Lodging Houses Act.
Royal Society Act.
Port Regulation Act.
Revenue Appropriation for 1854, Supplementary Act.
Launceston Slaughtering Act.
Master and Servants Act.
Common Law Procedure Act.
Bush Fires Prevention Act.
Jury Act.
Lieutenant Governor's Salary Act.
Ship Letter Act.
Sale of Liquors Regulation Act.
Council Extension Act.
Hobart Town Rivulet Act.
Parliament in Van Diemen's Land Act.
Launceston Building Regulation Act.
Revenue Appropriation, 1855, Act.

Private Acts.

Hobart Town and Sydney Steam Navigation Act.
Hobart Town and Kangaroo Point Steam Navigation Act.
Bank of Tasmania Act.
Hobart Town Gas Company Act.
Mersey Coal Company Act.
Eastern Coast Steam Navigation Act.

12. *New Country.*

In the year 1850 an expenditure from the Land Fund was commenced for the purpose of erecting a stone bridge called the Dunrobin over the Derwent River at Dunrobin near Hamilton, for the purpose of facilitating communication with the western and south-western country in the direction of Macquarie Harbour and Port Davey. The line was projected from Dunrobin Bridge to cross the

Repulse, Broad, Florentine, and Gordon Rivers. The country watered by these rivers is described in a report by Major Cotton in March 1851, of which I annex a copy, together with copy of a further report from that officer, dated March 1855, detailing the progress of the works to the present time. The bridge has, as yet, cost 8,137*l.*, and requires 2,104*l.* to complete it in twelve months from the present time. The road has cost 7,514*l.*, and requires 3,213*l.* to complete it in about the same space of time to Lake Pedder, distant from Port Davey twenty-five miles. From the sea at Port Davey the Huon River has been reached in three days.

It will be seen from the minute which is placed on this report, that I propose incurring, as time and means permit, the further expenditure which may be necessary to complete the opening up of the track of communication to Lake Pedder. I trust I may confidently reckon on the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury to this outlay.

An inspection of any general map of the island will show the immense extent of unoccupied land of the Crown which is included in the country west and south of Hamilton, as contrasted with the country occupied to the eastward of Hamilton and the Derwent River. I transmit a map of this western country by Major Cotton, illustrated with sketches of its scenery.

I forward also a tracing or sketch map, showing the country at present occupied under licence for pastoral purposes, and indicating the probable course of future settlement for the like purposes.

The country now used for pastoral purposes near the Guelph, Marlborough, and King William Plains was considered very unsuitable for occupation a few years ago, and now supports large flocks.

Under all these circumstances, combined with the considerable outlay which has already taken place, and which would be thrown away if the works already commenced, but incomplete, were relinquished, I have come to the conclusion that the works should be proceeded with out of the Land Fund to the extent above submitted for approval.

13. *General Observations.*

My visits to the rural districts have included Brown's River near Hobart Town, and Oyster Cove, the location of the few surviving aborigines, Richmond and Sorell on the Coal River, and Pittwater, Hamilton, Bothwell, and Lakes Sorell and Interlacken, the various townships intervening between Hobart Town and Launceston, George Town at the mouth of the River Tamar, and the country as far as Deloraine. I have also visited Tasman's Peninsula viâ Norfolk Bay.

The colonial churches and schools are not so well filled as they ought to be; and, with the exception of some instances of activity in the repair of roads by local road trustees, I was struck with the prevalence of a remarkable listlessness and want of organization to effect local improvements by local exertions, and a general habit of looking to the Colonial Government to do everything, great or little, which required to be done, and which in other countries would be done by parish or district authorities, or by the combination of private interests. It is possible that the smallness of church congregations may be accounted for in some degree by religion presenting itself to the minds of many of the labouring classes in association with the Episcopalian Church of England services which they attended compulsorily during their penal servitude. The rural state-aided schools have also, it strikes me, not hitherto received that attention from parents belonging to the well-paid labouring classes, and that countenance from the more influential residents in the neighbourhood, which their importance, and the liberality of the endowments from the Government, were calculated to excite. The value of labour withdraws the attendance of even very young children from school; a present gain of wages being preferred to the future advantages of mental and moral instruction.

The Crown lands have not fallen to the proprietorship of a class of small freeholders or yeomanry, nor, as yet, are the tenantry under private landlords numerous in the aggregate, or extensively spread over the island. The Imperial Land Sales Act of Parliament regulating the alienation of Crown lands at public auction came into local operation only in December 1853, the convict system having caused the Land Sales Act of Parliament to be in abeyance

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until that date. The local land regulations of November 1851, now repealed as respects future disposal of land, but under which large blocks of land were extensively alienated on terms of low rents, credit for the purchase money, pre-emption right of purchase, and privileges of quiet possession for a long term of years of ten times the area rented, will, it is probable, postpone for many years to come the opening of lands to future emigrants, which lands, if now available for sale in smaller blocks, would facilitate the settlement of a numerous and valuable class of freeholders.

The convict establishments supported by the Imperial Government are well ordered and efficient. The periodical and voluminous estimates and reports which have been already transmitted on the convict department render it unnecessary to enter into details on the subject. I will but observe, that I find every disposition on the part of the Comptroller-General to co-operate in effecting the reductions in the expenditure so urgently required by the Imperial Government, and which were effected in 1854 to the extent of 70,000*l*.

It is, however, certain that the termination of the penal servitude of the convicts will not by any means prove a termination of the expense caused by them.

Not only in their own generation, by frequently recurring offences, but in that which succeeds them, their influence for evil will still survive.

Were there not in the island one transported offender undergoing sentence, there would still be for many years to come a claim on the justice of the mother country for a large payment for the support of establishments for orphans, lunatics, paupers, and criminals, rendered necessary, directly or indirectly, by reason of this colony having been for so many years the receptacle of the large convict population of Great Britain.

The road from Hobart Town to Launceston, public bridges, public and private buildings in town and country, are valuable results of convict labour then at the disposal or under the control of imperial officers; very many, however, of the penal edifices and stations, on the formation of which vast amounts of convict labour were bestowed, by variances in the Home Government on the policy of penal discipline and the employment of prisoners, and by the cessation of transportation, exist now but as untenanted buildings, not required for penal purposes, unsuitable for any other, and hastening to ruin.

The natural resources of the island are, I believe, capable of very extensive further development, but my imperfect acquaintance with the colony does not admit of my enlarging on this topic in the present report.

I have, &c.

H. E. F. YOUNG.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 38.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 4th April 1851.

HIS Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor directs the publication, for general information, of the following report of the progress made during the year 1850 in the opening of the newly-discovered tracts to the westward.

By his Excellency's Command,

P. FRASER.

GENERAL REPORT on the Progress of Operations West of the Derwent.

25th March 1851.

At the close of the past year, it appeared desirable that I should make a general report of the progress of operations in the newly-opened country west of the course of the Derwent, the results already arrived at, and the arrangements made for the operations in this year; but, under the immediate expectation of obtaining further acquaintance with the nature and capabilities of the southern portions, by a visit to Port Davey and its neighbourhood, I have deferred making any report until I could include the result of my expedition there.

To illustrate this report, I have prepared the accompanying map, compiled partly from actual survey, and partly from general observations made by myself in visiting the principal mountain eminences, with the information obtained by the surveying and exploring parties under Messrs. Calder, Gell, and Cotton.

In the early part of the year, the track from Hobart Town by Victoria on the Huon was carried through the forests bordering on that river to the Lakes Pedder and Edgar; the latter a principal source of the Huon, and the former the source of a considerable

tributary of the Gordon. It passes through 50 miles of dense forest, the great barrier which had hitherto defied the efforts of private enterprise, and effectually closed from occupancy the open country beyond. The country traversed is not only for the most part densly wooded, but of exceedingly abrupt and rugged features, intersected by deep ravines and occasional marshy flats and shallows. At the foot of Mount Picton the track passes through two openings of about 1,000 acres each, sheltered and well adapted for sheep pasture, and then through a belt of 10 miles of forest, when it crosses the Cracroft, a considerable river running from the southward, and having its source in the gorges of the south-east extremity of the Arthur Range, and at once enters an extensive plain tract between that range and the source of the Huon. Following the course of the valley, it reaches the lakes, and has been carried no further, being beyond the limit to which I had means of supplying the surveying and clearing parties, the track in some parts not being passable for horses.

To the northward the road from Marlborough to the Guelph Plains has been completed for carts, bridges having been constructed over the Derwent and its two tributaries, the Guelph and the Navarre. A general survey and subdivision of the plains extending from Mount Olympus to the foot of Wylde's Craig has been effected, laying out into pasture allotments about 50,000 acres, a great proportion of which is already leased from the Crown, and occupied by flocks and cattle. A detached pasture allotment of 3,500 acres near the foot of the Quartz Mountain, known by the name of the Frenchman's Cap, has also been surveyed. This lies on a level about 2,000 feet below the upper plains, and is difficult of access. The survey at the head of the Vale of Gordon was suspended in May last, from the impossibility of keeping up the supply of provisions beyond that point; and my attention was directed to the project, which had been up to that period deferred, of opening a line of communication from the neighbourhood of Hamilton to the Gordon River through the Valley of the Florentine. Here the barrier, which extends in fact from D'Entrecasteaux's Channel in a north west direction, with scarcely a break, to the north-west angle of the island, is comparatively narrow; and a road of 20 miles in length will connect the most populous districts with the centre of the open country to the westward, and may be extended to Macquarie Harbour, to Port Davey, and to the plain country on the coast between those two ports. This line was explored by myself and by two other parties which I sent out for the purpose, and the best line was determined on. It passes over a considerable rise, and nearly the whole extent is a close forest of very heavy timber. The site of a bridge over the Derwent was determined by the Lieutenant-Governor, who personally visited the spot; and the clearing of the road has been carried on to the summit of the rise, about 1,500 feet above the level of the Derwent.

Until this road is opened the surveys are necessarily suspended; but in the meantime an opportunity has been offered me of examining the country from Port Davey to the Arthur Plains, beyond which the surveyors have not penetrated from the eastward. H.M. Schooner Bramble was fitted out for this expedition, and, during my examination of the interior, made a survey of the harbour, and fixed the latitude and longitude of South-west Cape, which had hitherto been doubtful. Sailing directions for entering Port Davey, founded on this survey, with a very clear description of that part of the coast, have been published for general information. The harbour consists of two distinct inlets, the one running to the northward, more particularly called Port Davey, into which the River Davey falls, and the other to the eastward, called Bathurst Harbour. The former inlet gives shelter to shipping, except in very severe gales; but the latter is perfectly secure, and of great extent, running in an easterly direction about 15 miles, where it opens out into a salt-water lake of 30 square miles of surface. I examined the whole of this beautiful estuary, and several valleys which fall towards it from the northward. Bramble Cove is the first shelter for shipping, and is a good harbour of refuge, but the banks are not convenient for wharfs. The next bay or cove is that into which Spring River falls. The channel up to it is sufficiently deep and wide, and the cove itself admirably calculated for a port. A considerable portion of the shore is steep below water, and forms almost a natural wharf, and there is sufficient space of undulating ground for a small town. The hills afford constantly flowing rills even in this exceedingly dry season, and Spring River, winding through a flat and fertile valley, is navigable for barges about ten miles up. This is the spot which is best adapted for forming the site of a town, not only from its local advantages, but as most easy of access from the interior.

The road from the lakes will cross no stream of any importance, and no difficult country, and will approach the town by the valley I have described. Two other considerable valleys fall into the salt-water lake forming the east extremity of the inlet, in which there is pine and other timber, and some extent of open plain country.

The most eastern stream rises in Mount Picton, the ridges of which divide the waters of the Huon from those flowing in this direction; and here would be found the most direct line of communication to Hobart Town; but the formation of a road would be a work of vast labour, and it would pass over a considerable elevation.

The distance from Bathurst Town, if so called, to Hobart Town, by way of Lake Pedder, the Florentine Valley, and Hamilton, will be about 120 miles; that by the Arthur Plains and the valley of the Huon about 95 miles; and a mountain path, by way of Mount

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

Picton, passing over a shoulder of that mountain about 2,000 feet in height into the Huon Valley, would bring Hobart Town within 75 miles of the salt-water lake.

In my expedition into the interior from Port Davey I ascended Mount Pollard, about 10 miles north of the harbour, where I obtained an extensive view of the country along the coast to the northward, and recognised the country already visited from the eastward, completing my acquaintance with the general features of the whole country, with the exception of that immediately about Macquarie Harbour, which was concealed from my view by the Frenchman's Cap when I was in the north, and which is from Mount Pollard lost behind a chain of no great elevation extending from the Frankland range to the west coast.

The general character of the country on this side of the great forest barrier differs much from the eastern parts of the island. Though equally mountainous, it contains a larger proportion of land fit for occupation, as the high mountains are for the most part abrupt and lofty ridges, comparatively small in base, and leaving more of open, flat, or undulating country between them; and, with the exception of those high ranges, the whole country is fit for occupation. The structure is for the most part quartz, with the rocks which usually belong to that formation. In the highest ranges the granite pierces through the quartz at different levels, varying nearly in accordance with their distance from the west coast. Near the coast quartz rises to an elevation of 3,000 feet before it is broken through by the granite; and the surface evidently dips to the eastward, giving place to the granite, upheaved at a lower and lower level until it disappears entirely, the line of its disappearance being about north-west and south-east through Wylde's Craig.

In a country where quartz rock apparently so greatly predominates over everything of a decomposing or a disintegrating nature, great fertility is not expected, and the white serrated ridges and naked flanks of the hills give the country a character of barrenness which it is not found to merit. Rich valleys, lined with timber of the most magnificent appearance and most useful description, occur between the spurs of the Arthur and Picton ranges, running quite down to the salt-water level, and the pine forests about Macquarie Harbour are well known. These forests and the banks of the Davey are even now worked by a few individuals, cut off from all communication with their fellow-men except by the occasional visit of a small vessel to bear away the fruits of their labour, and they will become a source of employment and revenue as the country becomes peopled. The lower mountain tracts, and a vast extent of undulating country, are covered, or nearly so, with a thick coating of wiry and coarse vegetation, which, when burnt off, gives place to nutritious grasses; and, from the experience we have had in obtaining this result, I have no doubt a very great proportion of the whole area will be found well adapted for the depasturing of flocks and cattle. Down the Vale of Gordon every step advanced by flocks carries forward this improvement. On the Arthur Plains, which have not yet been reached by flocks for want of means of access, but which were burnt last year, the same result has taken place; and those plains will shortly be fit for pasture, with the plains and hollows about the lakes, and those smaller openings which lie curtained by forest about the foot of Mount Picton.

Sandstone and limestone exist in the lower part of the Gordon, and between the Gordon and the Florentine, and slate of a fine even texture abounds in the bed of the Huon.

The whole country is well watered.

The operations in progress and in contemplation, for throwing open this new tract of country, are as follows:

1st. The road mentioned above, crossing the Derwent near Hamilton, and passing through the valley of the Florentine River, is now in progress. When it reaches the ridge dividing the Florentine from the Gordon, it is proposed to carry it on in a southerly direction to the lakes, and, keeping the line which divides the drainage there, it will pass between Lake Maria and Lake Edgar, and, rounding the eastern extremity of the Frankland range, will join the Huon track, and fall into the valleys running to the southward through the opening between the Frankland and Arthur ranges, which are there barely connected by a very low neck.

2d. As soon as this communication is sufficiently advanced to admit of supplies for the surveying parties being deposited on the banks of the Gordon, the surveys will proceed, and, as has been done to the northward, the remainder of the Vale of Gordon will be divided off into pasture lots of from 2,000 to 5,000 acres, and the flocks admitted.

The plains about the lakes and the Arthur Plains, in succession, and the country to the westward and southward, will be proceeded with in the same manner.

3rd. In the course of these surveys the trigonometrical stations will be established, carrying on the triangulation quite down to the coast, and the surveys will be effected in connexion with them.

4th. From the effort made by flock owners to press on through the greatest difficulties to the plains newly opened, and to those in fact still scarcely accessible, I have no doubt that the whole country will be occupied as quickly as tracks can be opened and the country subdivided; and, with so admirable an outlet for wool as Bathurst Town, Port Davey, there will be every inducement for the spread of the crowded flocks of the colony

in that direction. Occupation under depasturing licences therefore will proceed regularly as the operations advance.

5th. My attention during next summer, while these operations are in progress, I propose to direct to the examination of the country near the coast north of the Macquarie Harbour, where from a distance I have seen much open country apparently similar in character to that to the southward, and to which access will be obtained through some extent of forest from King William's Plains.

In closing this report, I cannot help acknowledging the active services of the exploring parties under Mr. Gell and Mr. Cotton, who have been exposed to great privations and fatigue, and obtained for me an amount of information which nothing but the spirit of enterprise, with bodily and mental energy, could have obtained.

H. Cotton, Deputy-Surveyor-General.

Government Notice.

No. 61.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 5th May 1855.

The Governor directs the publication for general information of the following reports of the Deputy-Surveyor-General and other documents relative to the road from Dunrobin to Lake Pedder.

By his Excellency's Command,

W. Champ.

Memo. Surveyor-General's Office, 2d February, 1855.

The Governor being desirous of obtaining information respecting the available Crown lands of the colony, I beg leave to draw his Excellency's attention to the report of the Deputy-Surveyor-General, contained in the Gazette of the 26th of March 1850 (Government Notice No. 31.), by which it appears that an area of about 280,000 acres exists in the locality referred to. At the same time I feel bound to state that no land has been taken up in that locality to the present moment.

R. Power, Surveyor-General.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

Sir, Gordon River Road, 3d March 1855.

I have the honour to report, for your information, that I yesterday returned from Lake Pedder and the adjacent country, after an absence of twelve days,

A slight accident prevented the Deputy-Surveyor-General from proceeding beyond the Gordon Plains; and, having full confidence in the zeal and ability of my overseers (during my absence), I volunteered to carry out the exploratory survey he had projected.

Provisioned only for seven days, we however encountered so much of forest and scrub (in our outward route) as to make it twelve ere we got back. We saw an immense extent of available pastoral country; and I feel warranted in saying that the result of our tour, in addition to observations taken by the Deputy-Surveyor-General on the line of road and the vicinity of the Gordon Plains, will enable that gentleman to make such a report to the Government as will manifest the expediency of prosecuting with vigour the completion of the road now in progress, and its further extension.

I crave indulgence for the non-transmission of my weekly returns by this post, which are unavoidably postponed, the pay abstracts and ration returns having engrossed the little time left me since my return.

I have, &c.

William Dawson.

The Director of Public Works.

6th March 1855.

Forwarded to the Colonial Secretary for the Governor's information.

William P. Kay.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

This is very satisfactory, and creditable to Mr. Dawson. I shall expect with interest the further report to be made by Major Cotton.

9th March 1855. H. E. F. Y.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Report on the Road from Dunrobin to Lake Pedder.

10th March 1855.

Accompanying is a sketch of the country through which the road passes to the Gordon River, and that through which it is proposed to extend it as far as Lake Pedder.

I carefully examined by compass the course of the road throughout, and find it much more direct than I ever anticipated, considering the difficulties of the tract through which it passes.

From Dunrobin Bridge to the Repulse River, a distance of eight miles, the road follows nearly the course of the Derwent; and, with the exception of the bridges over the Broad River and the Repulse, a good cart-road has been made with very little labour. At the Repulse River land has been reserved for a future township.

From hence to Judy's Marsh, five or six miles, the road ascends about 1,100 feet. This part of the road has cost much labour, first in opening a way through the forest, and then in cutting along the face of the slopes. So far a good cart-road is formed.

From Judy's Marsh to the top of the descent into the Florentine Valley, about seven miles, the road is good for horses, and could, without much labour, be made fit for wheel conveyances. It rises by a gradual but imperceptible ascent 200 or 300 feet. Passing through a dense myrtle forest for the most part, this has been a work of great labour. It crosses one good marsh, which, if drained, would afford a resting-place for flocks passing to the Plains. From hence to the township reserve of Florence, on the Florentine River, five miles, is a descent of 800 or 900 feet, still through a close and intricate forest, the clearing of which, and the side cutting for the roadway, with occasional culverts, has been the most laborious work in the whole undertaking. It is well done, and practicable for horses. Here improvements are still in progres.

At Florence a bridge has been laid over the river, but not above the level of the highest floods; it, however, has stood well through a great trial during the last winter, and will answer present purposes, as flocks will not be driven through in the wet months.

From Florence to Huntly, a township reservation on the borders of the Gordon Plains, is twelve miles. This part of the road is now in progress, and could in a short period, if the force was concentrated, be made fit for horses and flocks. It runs through a forest of the same impervious character, and has been a work of considerable labour; but, as far as the clearing has yet been extended, it runs along the valley with a very gentle acclivity, and has required very little levelling. The part remaining to be cleared of timber (not more than two miles) is now in hand. It will require side-cutting along the face of a steep slope for one mile. At Huntly the road debouches on the plains near the great bend of the Gordon River.

From the Repulse to the Florentine the course of the road is almost uniformly south-west, and along the Florentine Valley something westerly of south; and, on the whole, the road from Dunrobin to the bend of the Gordon may be considered a very direct line of communication, and the ascents and descents are overcome in a very satisfactory manner.

My first inspection of this part of the country gave me the assurance that this would be found the best line of communication between the occupied country and the extensive open but unoccupied tracts to the west and south-west; but I anticipated much greater obstacles to the formation of a direct road, and have in this particular been highly gratified by my present tour of inspection.

Having met with an accident on leaving the plains, I was under the necessity of sending forward a party to the lakes under the Superintendent, Mr. Dawson; but made an examination of the neighbourhood, and ascended several commanding eminences, by which, with Mr. Dawson's report on the country he traversed, I obtained all the information necessary to determine the direction the road must take to Lake Pedder, from whence the country is open to the Huon and Arthur Plains and to the west coast.

From Huntly to the lake, in the direction which the road must take, is about 27 miles; it must pass over one important and two smaller ridges, all narrow, but covered with a thick scrub and some heavy timber, and through open undulating country and flats. Not more than three miles in all on the ridges will be required to be cleared of timber.

I would take the liberty to suggest that the Director of Public Works obtain from Mr. Dawson an estimate of the amount of labour required to complete the following works:—

1st. To open the track through to the Gordon, making it practicable by flocks and cattle.

2d. To throw a foot-bridge across the Gordon, for communication with the plains on the opposite bank.

3d. To render the track passable for carts as far as "the Mount," or commencement of the descent into the Florentine Valley.

4th. To cut a drain through a marsh near "the Mount," to fit it for a resting and feeding place for flocks.

5th. To extend the communication to Lake Pedder passable for flocks and cattle by cutting through the narrow belts of forests, and marking the line with stakes through the intervening plains.

6th. To make the descent to the Florentine practicable for carts.

These estimates, with that for the completion of the bridge over the Derwent, will put his Excellency in possession of the requisite information which I have not data to embody in this report.

The forests in the Florentine Valley, which, till this track was opened through, resisted all efforts to free them from the mass of wet vegetation, inaccessible to the sun's rays, which everywhere prevailed, have this year been extensively opened by fire, and the fires are still spreading. The change effected will be immense, and give this rich valley a large step forward in its sure progress to occupation.

The several proposed sites for townships,—at the bridge over the Repulse River, at that over the Florentine, and at the opening upon the Gordon Plains,—are all well watered, and good sites.

The Florentine Valley, when cleared of its forests, will be found, in soil and in climate, calculated to become a rich agricultural tract. It is sheltered by Mount Field on the east, Mount Ann to the south, and the range running south from Wyld's Crag on the west. The river is always an abundant stream. The prevailing rock is limestone.

Passing over the last ridge into the Gordon Plains, there is a sudden and complete change in the character of the country. Open and undulating, intersected merely with belts of wood, and prepared to receive flocks at once for summer feeding, it will, I feel assured, be at no distant period a favourite sheep country.

Comparing these plains,—first those called King William's Plains to the northward, these, being on a lower level, about 1,000 feet, and from the nature of the grass and herbage covering them, have, in my judgment, decidedly the advantage,—and comparing them, secondly, with the rocky tracts in other parts of the island now covered with sheep, —I am strongly impressed with the belief that, though undoubtedly they require much of that operation which is effected by the flocks themselves for their improvement, they will be at least as well calculated for the depasturing of sheep and cattle as those tracts with which I am now comparing them. I speak here of the country about the great bend of the Gordon, and the plains through which the track is proposed to be carried as far as the Lakes, and may include the plains extending up the right bank of the Gordon to its source, near which is a considerable ascent to the Guelph and King William's Plains, where I believe 15,000 sheep are now fed. I particularly draw attention to this circumstance, from my conviction that if those formerly most unpromising plains will bear sheep at all, much more may these be expected to become a valuable range for flocks.

Not being myself a sheep farmer, I reluctantly offer an opinion on the subject, but wish to state the grounds of my conviction, and that this is confirmed by every visitor of the plains whom I have met with.

It appears to me now desirable that the whole strength of the party should be applied to the completion of a passable sheep and horse track quite to the plains, according to the first proposed estimate, and laying a foot bridge over the Gordon near the great bend, according to the second; and in order to give flocks a resting and feeding place between the Repulse Bridge and the Florentine, it would be very desirable to cut the drain referred to in the fourth proposed estimate. These works completed, the expediency of carrying out those referred to in the third, fifth, and sixth proposed estimates, and any further improvements, may depend on their results.

The bridge over the Derwent has been a very expensive work. The piers and abutments are now nearly completed; they are exceedingly well built, and of a very compact and fine freestone. The wooden arches under preparation appear to be in a state of great forwardness. The approach to the bridge from the Hamilton side will be a work of some considerable labour, scarcely yet commenced; but the Director of Public Works will give all the information his Excellency requires on this head.

H. Cotton.

Submitted. Much of the land herein referred to is the same as that reported upon by the Deputy-Surveyor-General in March 1850, and none of it has yet been taken up. I therefore beg to draw attention to the report in question.

R. Power.

13th March 1855.

Return my best thanks to Major Cotton for this report. Say I consider it to be very interesting and satisfactory as far as it goes. It is only by private enterprise that the value of this extensive western and south-western tract of country can be determined, and the public are entitled to such information as the Government possesses respecting it. Let it, therefore, be published in the Gazette, with Mr. Dawson's letter of the 3d March 1855, Surveyor-General's minutes of the 2d of February and the 13th March, and also with this minute. Valuable country has remained in other colonies unavailed of much longer than the period that has elapsed since 1850, the date of Major Cotton's first report. To facilitate access to new country is an obvious and necessary preliminary to its being turned to account. I am glad that the Dunrobin Bridge is reported to me by the Director of Public Works to be so far advanced as to be capable of completion within another twelve months, for a further sum of £2,104 8*s.*; and it is

also satisfactory to learn that such progress has been made in opening up a track towards Lake Pedder that this work can be completed to that point for £3,215 11*s*. I purpose continuing these works as early as the season, the labour available, and the state of the Land Fund may permit, because my experience in opening new country elsewhere has satisfied me of the reasonable probability that such outlay will prove highly reproductive.

30th March 1855. H. E. F. YOUNG.

GORDON RIVER ROAD.

Memorandum.

WITH reference to my report of the 10th ultimo, and the estimates furnished by the Director of Public Works. I beg now to draw his Excellency's attention more particularly to the result to be expected from the completion of the work to the extent provided for in the estimates.

It appears that the superintendent, with two overseers, a constable, and 24 labourers, will in twelve months from the 1st instant make the road practicable for carts as far as the township of Florence on the banks of the Florentine River, and from thence practicable for horses and flocks to the township of Huntly in the Valley of the Gordon, and onwards through several extensive open tracts to Lake Pedder. This, with the completion of the bridge over the Derwent at Dunrobin, will complete the projected line of communication for giving access to the plains near the great bend of the Gordon where the township of Huntley is situated, consisting of two lots containing 5,850 acres already surveyed, and about 7,000 acres not yet measured, 38,500 acres marked off into eight pasture lots in the Gordon Valley above the bend, and similar plains, estimated to be 40,000 acres, terminating at Lake Pedder.

When these plains are occupied there will be no obstacle to the occupation of the pasture lots in the neighbourhood of Lake Edgar (47,000 acres already divided into five lots) and down the course of the Huon (40,000 acres divided into five lots) to the junction of the Cracroft, an important tributary rising in the Arthur Mountains, but which latter plains are of a less promising character than those near the lakes and on the line of the proposed track.

From these plains to the west coast communication can be easily extended. It is now passable for foot passengers, and has been freely traversed by surveyors and messengers of this department. I cannot but observe here that, in addition to the immediate advantage of opening up plains of great extent hitherto unapproachable, the western coast and harbours, till now absolutely cut off by the great mountain and forest barrier from the inhabited country, become accessible, and (as described in my former reports) an important portion of the island, hitherto forming a perfectly separate territory out of reach except by a very precarious and uncertain sea voyage, becomes a connected portion of the colony, and I have no doubt will be found by no means the least important part of the island.

The fine harbour of Port Davey will be the chief outlet for its produce. Its valuable timber, its mineral indications, and its promise as a sheep country, as well as the extensive forest tracts bordering on it, which will gradually develop rich agricultural lands, give to this territorial communication a value which I believe has never yet been appreciated.

A tracing accompanies this report, embracing, besides the line of country traversed by the proposed road, the plains near Lake St. Clair, opened in 1850, and now fully occupied by flocks; those in the Gordon Valley to be approached by the proposed bridge over that river near Huntly; and the plains to the southward of Lake Edgar, above alluded to. And I must at the same time refer to my general map of this part of the country, furnished with my former report, and now with the Government. I must further notice that, although the completion of the contemplated work is estimated to occupy twelve months from the 1st instant, the road may be made available for flocks to pass to the plains bordering on the Gordon early in the spring; and therefore it will be necessary previous to that period to make arrangements for granting grazing licences to occupy the land in that neighbourhood, and for marking off allotments for sale in the townships of Huntly, Florence, and Bethune.

H. C. COTTON, 16th April 1855.

The Surveyor General.

SIR, Office of Public Works, 16th April, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith a statement of the cost, up to the end of last month, of the Dunrobin Bridge, together with an estimate of the amount that will be required to complete the same; from which it will be seen that, with the strength of the party kept up to the numbers specified, the work is expected to be completed in nine months from the 1st instant.

I have, &c.

W. P. KAY.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

STATEMENT of Amount expended on the Dunrobin Bridge up to the 31st March 1855.

	£	s.	d.
In 1850	7	4	0
1851	1,165	3	0
1852	2,302	3	11
1853	1,605	10	2
1854	1,926	8	3
1855, up to 31st March 1855	1,131	9	0
	£8,137	18	4
Amount required to complete the bridge, as per annexed estimate	£2,104	8	0
Total cost of bridge	£10,242	6	4

ESTIMATE of the probable Cost in completing the Works in the Erection of the Bridge at Dunrobin.

	£	s.	d.
Superintendent, 9 months, at 6s. 6d. per diem	87	15	0
Foreman of carpenters, 8 months, at 7s. 6d. per diem	71	5	0
Eight carpenters, 8 months, at 6s. per diem	426	8	0
Two ditto, 6 months, at 5s. per diem	72	0	0
Four masons, 4 months, at 6s. per diem	115	4	0
Two stonecutters, 3 months, at 4s. per diem	28	16	0
Two ditto, 3 months, at 3s. per diem	23	8	0
Two sawyers, 2 months, at 5s. per diem	24	0	0
Two ditto, 1 month, at 4s. per diem	9	12	0
Two blacksmiths, 6 months, at 4s. per diem	57	12	0
Four labourers, 6 months, at 3s. per diem	53	12	0
Team of bullocks, 2 months, at 12s. per diem	28	16	0
	£998	8	0
Estimated cost of rations for the above-named number of men, and the several periods they are employed	600	0	0
Commissariat charges, and for visiting magistrate, £35, for 9 months	315	0	0
Add 10 per cent. for contingencies, carriage of stores, &c.	191	0	0
	£2,104	8	0

WM. P. KAY.

SIR, Office of Public Works, 16th April 1855.

IN compliance with the Governor's instruction on Major Cotton's report respecting the Gordon River Road, I have procured from Mr. Dawson the six estimates which were therein ordered to be made out, and which I beg herewith to enclose.

From the best calculations that I can make from his data, I find that to complete the works therein described, the party being kept up to an effective strength of twenty-four men, with a superintendent, two overseers, and a constable, will take about twelve months, commencing from the 1st instant; and of this the enclosed estimate will show the probable cost, supposing that the cost of wages and provisions remains the same as at present.

The number of men to be employed will vary according to the state of the weather, and the facilities which may or may not exist for proceeding with the work; but the average number will not exceed 24 men.

I also beg to submit a statement of the amount expended from the commencement of the undertaking to the 31st ult., which, with the estimate of the cost of its completion, will show the total probable cost of the work.

I have, &c.
WM. P. KAY.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

STATEMENT of Amount expended on the Gordon River Road up to the 31st March 1855.

	£	s.	d.
In 1850	10	9	7
1851	790	11	5
1852	917	7	1
1853	1,706	19	3
1854	3,076	16	9
1855 up to March 31st	1,012	4	0
	7,514	7	1
Amount required to complete the work, as per annexed estimate	3,215	11	0
	£10,729	18	1

ESTIMATE of the probable Cost of completing the clearing of the Road to Gordon River and Lake Pedder.

	£	s.	d.
One Superintendent, at 170*l.* for twelve months	170	0	0
Temporary increase on ditto, say	100	0	0
Constable, say	67	0	0
Two Overseers, at 7*s.* 6*d.* per diem each for twelve months	273	15	0
Twenty-four men, at 2*s.* 4*d.* per diem each, for 313 days	924	16	0
Rations for the above officers and men	1,370	0	0
Forage for two pack-horses	116	0	0
Forage allowance for Superintendent	60	0	0
One penny per diem for each man for tools	34	0	0
Stores, contingencies, &c.	100	0	0
	£3,215	1	10

WM. P. KAY.

Statistical Tables of Tasmania for the Year 1854.

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No. 1.

Return showing the Population of the Colony on the 31st December 1854, not including the Troops and their Families.

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
On the 31st December 1853 there were in the Colony,—				
Free	13,353	12,127	23,729	
Convict	12,575	4,170	—	
Total	25,928	16,297	23,729	65,954
Add Immigration	5,597	2,883	1,045	
Births	—	—	2,603	
	31,525	19,180	27,377	78,082
Deduct Emigration	8,238	2,336	706	
Deaths	626	326	976	
Population on 31st December 1854	22,661*	16,518*	25,695	64,874

* Of these 8,408 are male convicts, 3,310 are female convicts.

Remarks on No. 1.—As compared with 1853 this Table shows a diminution in the number of adult males of 3,267, and an increase in adult females of 221, and of children 1,966, leaving a net diminution of 1,080 in the population.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 2.

RETURN showing the NUMBER and DISTRIBUTION of the CONVICTS in the Colony on the 31st December 1854.

	Maintained by the Government.			Not maintained by the Government.			TOTAL.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Holding tickets-of-leave	211	10	312	4,018	2,108	6,126	4,229	2,209
In private service	- -	- -	- -	2,228	417	2,645	2,228	417
Under probation	490	24	514	- -	- -	- -	490	24
Under sentence	1,163	509	1,672	- -	- -	- -	1,163	509
At depots awaiting hire	4	7	11	- -	- -	- -	4	7
Invalids and in hospital	294	144	438	- -	- -	- -	294	144
	2,162	785	2,947	6,246	2,525	8,771	8,408	3,310

NOTE.—Of the ticket-of-leave holders maintained by the Government 33 men and 14 women are in hospitals or infirmaries.

Remarks on No. 2.—This return, as compared with 1853, shows a reduction of 4,167 males, and 860 females in the convict population.

It also shows a reduction of 760 males and 253 females in the number maintained by Government.

No. 3.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of BIRTHS registered at the several Registry Offices in 1854.

Male Children.	Female Children.	Total.
1,339	1,264	2,603

Remarks on No. 3.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of 145 male and 225 female children registered.

No. 4.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of DEATHS registered in the several Registry Offices during 1854.

(The deaths of convicts are not registered in these offices.)

Ages.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 10 years of age	523	453	976
10 and under 20	61	55	116
20 „ 30	78	57	135
30 „ 40	114	59	173
40 „ 50	118	55	173
50 „ 60	97	49	146
60 „ 70	68	28	96
70 „ 80	46	12	58
80 „ 90	21	3	24
90 „ 100	3	1	4
100 and upwards	1	0	1
Ages not known	19	7	26
Total	1,149	779	1,928

Remarks on No. 4.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease in the number of deaths of 89, and this decrease appears to have taken place in the class of females between 30 and 40 years of age, and of female children under 10 years of age.

No. 5.

RETURN showing the Number of Marriages registered in the several Registry Offices during the Year 1854.

By Ministers of the Church of England	731
" " Scotland	122
" " Rome	317
By Wesleyan Ministers	47
Independent	113
Baptist	1
By Jews	3
Quakers	0
Deputy Registers	9
Total	1,343

Of these 331 were widowers or widows. 288 were of persons under 21 years of age.
In 1,073 cases the Registers were signed by marks.

Remarks on No. 5.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease of 136 in the number of marriages. Almost all being under the head of Churches of England and Rome, the decrease appears to be in the former to the extent of upwards of 120.

No. 6.

RETURN relative to IMMIGRATION in 1854.

Immigrants introduced at the Public Expense.					Immigrants at their own Expense.				Total Number of Immigrants in 1854.	Expenses of Office Lodging, Salaries, Gratuities, &c.	Passage Money of Immigrants from England and Victoria, and Repayment of Deposits under Regulations of 1853.	Total Expense of Immigration in 1854.
Adults.		Children.		Total.	Men.	Wmn	Children.	Total.				
Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,750	1,576	419	427	4,172	3,847	1,307	199	5,353	9,525	4,505 13 5	*18,627 14 10	23,133 8 3

* Of this sum 6,352*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* was paid for immigrants from Victoria, and 8,420*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* for immigrants from Great Britain.

Remarks on No. 6.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase in Government immigrants to the extent of 1,047 men, 946 women, and 348 children; and a decrease on private immigrants of 6,737 men, 765 women, and 291 children.

No. 6 *a*.

RETURN showing the PORTS from which the IMMIGRANTS arrived in 1854.

Port.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
From Great Britain	751	1,489	705	2,945
Hamburg	3	—	—	3
New South Wales	234	131	53	418
Victoria	4,561	1,240	278	6,079
South Australia	14	9	3	27
New Zealand	18	5	3	26
United States of America	1	2	1	4
Foreign States	15	6	2	23
Total	5,597	2,782	1,045	9,525

Remarks on 6*a*.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease in the arrivals from Victoria of 5,047 souls, and from Great Britain of 451 souls.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 7.

RETURN of the number of PERSONS who have left the Colony during the Year 1854.

To what Country.	Persons who have always been free.				Persons who have been Convicts.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Victoria	5,923	1,710	481	8,114	1,358	175	1,533	9,647
New South Wales	623	250	133	1,006	48	7	55	1,061
Great Britain	125	118	65	308	6	4	10	318
Foreign Ports	14	3	1	18	1	0	1	19
British Ports	118	66	26	210	22	3	25	235
	6,803	2,147	706	9,656	1,435	189	1,624	11,280

Remarks on No. 7.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease in the emigration of 1,404 souls.

To Victoria there have been 1,906 fewer emigrants, almost all in the class of persons who have been convicts.

No. 8.

RETURN of the VALUE of IMPORTS into the Colony during the Year 1854.

From what Country.	Value.
	£
From Great Britain	1,776,694
From British Colonies	696,296
From Foreign States	95,295
From the United States of America	36,078
From British North America	317
Total £	2,604,680

Remarks on No. 8.—As compared with 1853 this shows an increase of 331,283*l.*

No. 9.

RETURN of the VALUE of EXPORTS from the Colony during the Year 1854.

To what Country.	Declared Value.
	£
To Great Britain	424,575
To British Colonies	1,007,287
To United States of America	1,132
To Foreign States	27
Total £	1,433,021

Remarks on No. 9.—As compared with 1853, this shows an decrease of 324,575*l.*

No. 10.

RETURN of the SHIPS and VESSELS engaged in the Fisheries during 1854.

Description of Vessels.						Description and Value of Cargo disposed of by Foreign Ships.			
Colonial.		British.		Foreign.					
Number	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Sperm Oil.	Black Oil.	Whalebone.	Value.
							tuns.	*tons.*	
5	1,247	1	375	2	737	—	23	10	£1,050

Remarks on No. 10.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease of one vessel engaged in the fisheries.

No. 11.

RETURN of the NUMBER of VESSELS that entered Inwards and cleared Outwards during the Year 1854.

Countries.	Entered Inwards.		Cleared Outwards.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
Great Britain	91	39,678	19	8,303
British Colonies	941	152,185	930	164,064
South Sea Islands	—	—	5	734
Fisheries	9	2,690	14	3,680
United States of America	2	1,307	2	587
Foreign States	14	2,752	58	23,030
	1,057	198,612	1,028	200,398

Remarks on No 11.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of 16 vessels from Great Britain inwards, and of 12 vessels from British Colonies and 9 from the fisheries, but a decrease of 4 from the United States. Total increase 33 vessels inwards. It also shows a decrease of 1 vessel to Great Britain, 12 vessels to British Colonies, 1 to United States, but an increase of 5 to South Sea Islands, 14 to fisheries, 24 to Foreign Ports. Total increase outwards, 29 vessels.

No. 12.

RETURN of the NUMBER of VESSELS built and registered during the Year 1854.

Vessels built.		Vessels registered.	
Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
10	401	90	10,344

Remarks on No. 12.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease of 8 vessels built, and of 17 vessels registered.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND,

No. 13.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of STEAM VESSELS registered at the Ports of HOBART TOWN and LAUNCESTON in the Year 1854.

Number of Steam Vessels.		Tonnage.	Steam Power.	Remarks.
Built of Wood.	Built of Iron.			
2	9	1,766	744	Some of them employed between Tasmania and Victoria, and others as passenger or ferry boats on the coasts and rivers of Tasmania.

Remarks on No. 13.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of 6 steamers, all of Iron.

No. 14.

RETURN of the AMOUNT and NUMBER of MORTGAGES on LAND registered during 1854.

Number of Mortgages registered.	Amount.
	£
293	316,463

Remarks on No. 14.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of 93,471*l.* raised on seventy more mortgages.

No. 15.

RETURN of the AMOUNT of COIN in the Colony on the 31st December 1854.

	£	s.	d.
In the Colonial Treasury - - - -	Nil.		
In the Commissariat Chest - - -	40,000	0	0
In the Banks - - - - -	995,368	17	3
Total - -	1,035,368	17	3
Decrease on previous year - -	339,983	2	11

Remarks on No. 15.—As compared with 1853, there are 5,000*l.* more in the commissariat chest, but 334,983*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* less in the banks.

No. 16.

RETURN of the ASSETS and LIABILITIES of the several Banks at the End of the Year 1854.

		Bank of Van Diemen's Land.			Commercial Bank.			Bank of Australasia.			Union Bank.			Bank of Tasmania.			TOTAL.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Assets	Coin and Bullion	182,046	2	7	356,591	16	9	192,971	18	0	235,352	15	9	28,406	4	2	995,368	17	3
	Bills of Exchange, Cash, Credits, &c - -	244,360	0	9	352,113	15	7	358,486	8	4	373,596	19	0	85,919	12	0	1,414,476	15	8
	Total Assets -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,409,845	12	11
Liabilities.	Notes in Circulation - -	26,812	0	0	58,928	0	0	52,814	9	2	53,562	0	0	10,392	0	0	202,508	9	2
	Deposits -	279,406	9	11	522,053	16	8	411,376	16	8	426,927	9	4	58,404	19	3	1,698,269	10	10
	Total Liabilities -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,900,777	19	0

Remarks on No. 16.—As compared with 1853, the assets of the several banks are more by 13,726*l.*, and their liabilities less by 221,867*l.*

The Bank of Tasmania was established in 1854.

No. 17.

RETURN of the QUANTITY of GOODS in Her Majesty's Bonding Warehouses on 31st December 1854.

	Hobart Town.	Launceston.	Total.	Duty chargeable.
Brandy - - Gallons	88,293	23,969	112,262	12*s.* per gallon.
Geneva - - „	29,420	12,491	41,911	9*s.* per gallon.
Liqueurs - - „	647	19	666	9*s.* per gallon.
Rum - - „	42,597	18,596	61,193	9*s.* per gallon.
Whiskey - - „	1,673	767	2,440	9*s.* per gallon.
Gin, British - „	20,315	4,795	25,110	9*s.* per gallon.
Tobacco - - „	141,001	45,463	186,464	2*s.* per pound.
Cigars - - „	39,836	11,763	51,599	2*s.* per pound.

Remarks on No. 17.—The amount of duty receivable on these quantities of spirits and tobacco is 150,757*l.*

No. 18.

RETURN of the VALUE of WOOL, OIL, and WHALEBONE, exported in 1854.

	Value in Pounds Sterling.
	£
Wool 4,419,276 pounds - -	325,384
Oil, black - - - -	5,093
„ sperm - - - -	22,330
Whalebone - - -	440
	353,247

Remarks on No. 18.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease in the value of wool exported to the extent of 712*l.* and in oil to the extent of 2,683*l.*

No. 19.

RETURN of the VALUE of EXPORTS in 1854, the Produce of the Colony, not including Wool and Oil.

Articles exported.	Declared Value in Pounds Sterling.	Articles exported.	Declared Value in Pounds Sterling.
	£		£
Timber - - -	306,857	Onions - - -	5,338
Flour - - -	147,311	Bark - - -	3,391
Grain - - -	96,785	Hides and Skins - -	2,445
Hay - - - -	67,000	Malt - - - -	1,925
Live Stock (Horses 56,390*l.*) -	59,645	Natural History specimens -	1,520
Fruit - - -	50,076	Vegetables - - -	1,139
Potatoes - - -	49,767	Trees and Plants - -	573
Bran - - - -	28,822	Tallow - - -	460
Butter and Cheese - -	13,706	Bones and Horns - -	125
Lime - - -	12,738	Baskets - - -	185
Stones - -	8,098		
Hops - - - -	7,868	Total -	865,774

Remarks on No. 19.—Timber and grain are the staple exports of the colony :—

	£	£			£	£	
In timber the export is less by	136,304		than in 1853.	In onions the export is less by	6,378		than in 1853.
In flour „ more by		33,375	„	In bark „ more by		906	„
In grain „ less by	18,702		„	In hides and skins less by	2,582		„
In hay „ more by		10,843	„	In malt „ „	9,547		„
In live stock „ „		29,966	„	In natural history specimens more by		1,520	„
In fruit „ „		24,971	„	In vegetables „ more by		316	„
In potatoes „ less by	36,063		„	In trees and plants „		114	„
In bran „ more by		10,391	„	In tallow „ less by	825		„
In butter and cheese less by	5,842		„	In bones and horns „	3		„
In lime „ „	995		„	In baskets „ more by		185	„
In stones „ more by		4,309	„				
In hops „ „		3,740	„		187,241	120,636	

Net decrease, 66,605*l.*

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 20.

RETURN showing the CHIEF ARTICLES of IMPORT in 1854.

Articles imported.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From the United States of America.	From Foreign Ports.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Drapery	269,922	23,082	—	808	293,812
Ironmongery	155,327	27,862	1,741	1,719	186,649
Hosiery and Haberdashery	131,314	9,569	—	81	140,964
Apparel and Slops	105,559	14,828	—	355	120,742
Spirits	86,258	24,177	—	688	111,123
Malt Liquor	96,202	7,858	—	—	104,060
Tea	1,373	41,458	—	52,333	95,164
Cottons and Linens	84,109	8,194	—	—	92,303
Sugar	760	81,224	—	8,060	90,044
Cattle	—	84,638	—	—	84,638
Oilmans' Stores	64,191	15,997	959	699	81,846
Woollen Goods	71,451	958	—	692	73,101
Beef and Provisions	17,109	47,764	1,160	—	66,033
Stationery	58,352	6,288	—	1,122	65,762
Boots and Shoes	60,526	4,928	—	90	65,544
Wines	57,174	7,068	—	125	64,367
Flour	28	17,467	20,845	11,510	49,850
Sheep	60	37,191	—	—	37,251
Timber	4,444	19,345	6	665	24,460
Medicine	20,015	2,686	—	96	22,797
Grain	10,004	11,277	375	—	21,656
Manure	—	2,402	—	3,600	6,002

Remarks on No. 20. as compared with 1853 shows as follows:

Increase.	Decrease.
Drapery.	Apparel and Slops.
Ironmongery.	Spirits.
Hosiery and Haberdashery.	Cottons and Linens.
Malt Liquor.	Sugar.
Tea.	Woollens.
Cattle.	Wines.
Oilman's Stores.	
Beef and Provisions.	
Stationery.	
Boots and Shoes.	
Flour.	
Sheep.	
Timber.	
Medicine.	
Grain.	
Manure.	

No. 21.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PERSONS who have been declared INSOLVENT during the Year 1854.

	Persons declared Insolvent by Creditors.							Persons who have declared themselves Insolvent.						
	No.	Scheduled Assets.			Scheduled Liabilities.			No.	Scheduled Assets.			Scheduled Liabilities.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Hobart Town	2	107	0	0	1,133	17	6	31	32,414	19	0	67,769	18	5
Launceston	2	4,295	7	8	4,639	10	0	8	4,580	19	10	25,863	7	4
Total	4	4,402	7	8	5,773	7	6	39	36,995	18	10	93,632	5	9

No. 22.

RETURN relative to LIGHTHOUSES, 1854.

Lighthouse.	Nature of Light exhibited.	By whom managed.	Expense in 1854.	Light Dues received in 1854.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Kent's Group	Revolving	Officer and three men	1,105 0 3	
Bruni Island	Ditto	Ditto	595 4 2	
Low Head	Ditto	Ditto, two men	532 13 8	
Swan Island	Revolving flash	Ditto, three men	674 18 10	5,050 3 6
Goose Island	Fixed	Ditto, three men	563 12 1	
Iron Pot Island	Ditto	Ditto, two men	467 2 6	
			3,938 1 6	5,050 3 6

Remarks to No. 22.—No change.

No. 23.

RETURN of the NUMBER of POST OFFICES and of LETTERS and NEWSPAPERS passing through them during the Year 1854.

			Number.
Post offices and receiving houses			65
Number of persons employed			95
Miles of post roads			675
Letters sent from Hobart Town			231,597
Newspapers sent from Hobart Town			218,000
Letters received			204,414
Newspapers received			122,500
Penny Post	Hobart	Franked letters	13,669
		Unfranked	35,499
	Launceston	Franked letters	199
		Unfranked	15,123
Revenue of the Post Office in 1854			£ 8,198 6 0
Expenditure of the Post Office in 1854			16,291 9 10

Remarks on No. 23.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of three post offices, and an increase in the total number of letters or newspapers passing through to the extent of 72,044.

The revenue has decreased 1,682*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

The expenditure has increased 5,199*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*

No. 24.

RETURN of the PRINCIPAL MANUFACTORIES and TRADES in operation throughout the Colony on the 31st December 1854.

	Number.		Number.
Agricultural implement makers	21	Gunsmiths	7
Auctioneers	19	Ironmongers	21
Bakers	102	Maltsters	13
Basket makers	15	Mast and block manufactories	9
Blacksmiths	144	Mills, flour, wind and water	51
Bonedust manufactories	1	„ steam	23
Brassfoundries	6	Painters and glaziers	41
Breweries	42	Pastrycooks	31
Bricklayers	71	Pianoforte makers	2
Builders	43	Potteries	4
Butchers	151	Printing offices	13
Cabinet makers	38	Publicans	378
Candle manufactories	9	Ropemakers	2
Carpenters	109	Sailmakers	9
Carvers and gilders	4	Sawmills	16
Chemists	22	Shipwrights	25
Cider makers	6	Shoemakers	254
Coachmakers	6	Soapboilers	4
Cooperages	13	Starch manufactories	1
Corn and ship chandlers	20	Stonemasons	55
Dyers	1	Tailors	84
Engineers	15	Tanners	27
Fellmongers	28	Tinworkers	31
Foundries	5	Tobacconists	16
Furriers	9	Turners	10
General dealers	343	Watchmakers	22
Glue and size makers	6	Wheelwrights	72
Goldbeaters	1	Wine merchants	30
Groceries	48	Woolstaplers	7

Remarks on No. 24.—As compared with 1853 there appears to be a falling off among the bakers, blacksmiths, butchers, carpenters, general dealers, shoemakers, tailors, and tanners, and an increase in the brewers, corn chandlers, ironmongers, mast and block makers, mills, saw-mills, wheelwrights, &c.

No. 25.

RETURN relative to MUNICIPALITIES and ROAD TRUSTS in 1854.

Corporate Body.		Amount raised in the Year 1854.	Amount expended in the Year 1854.
		£	£
Municipalities	Hobart Town	23,201	17,777
	Launceston	7,323	5,762
Road Trusts	Hamilton	5,145	3,263
	Longford	4,306	3,897
	Westbury	2,438	2,011
	Glamorgan	2,191	1,794
	Morven	1,533	1,193
	Devon	1,236	951
	Swanport	806	372
	Oatlands	777	122
	Great Lake	684	155
	Lower Derwent	580	1,193
	Brown's River	461	213
	Pembroke	437	257
	Breadalbane	364	288
	Sorell	275	231
	Horton	261	98
	Richmond	204	93
	£	52,222	39,670

Remarks on No. 25. as compared with 1853.

This shows an increase in the Receipts of the Municipality of Hobart - of £16,714
and in the Expenditure - - - - of £10,371
In the Receipts of Launceston - - - - - of £3,322
and in the Expenditure - - - - of £1,761
In the Receipts from Road Trusts - - - - - of £18,576
and in the Expenditure - - - - of £13,831

No. 26.

RETURN of the AVERAGE WAGES paid to MECHANICS and LABOURERS in the Colony during 1854 without Board and Lodging.

Trades.		Hobart.	Launceston.	Interior.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bricklayers	per diem	15 0	12 0	8s. to 20s.
Carpenters	,,	13 0	13 0	8s. to 15s.
Joiners	,,	13 6	14 0	8s. to 15s.
Masons, Cutters	,,	15 0	14 0	7s. 6d. to 15s.
Masons, Builders	,,	16 0	18 0	8s. to 20s.
Painters	,,	12 0	12 0	7s. 6d. to 20s.
Plumbers	,,	14 0	16 0	8s. to 20s.
Plasterers	,,	15 0	12 0	7s. to 15s.
Quarrymen	,,	8 6	9 0	6s. to 15s.
Labourers	,,	5s. to 10s.	5s. to 10s.	5s. to 15s.

Wages of Domestic Servants vary from 12*l.* to 50*l.* with (of course) board and lodging.

Remarks on No. 26. as compared with 1853.—Very slight difference.

No. 27.

RETURN showing the AVERAGE PRICES of PROVISIONS at HOBART TOWN, on the 31st December 1854.

		£	s.	d.
Meat.—Beef	per pound	0	0	6
Mutton	„	0	0	6
Veal	„	0	1	0
Pork	„	0	1	2
Bacon	„	0	1	9
Ham	„	0	1	9
Bread	per pound	0	0	4¼
Butter fresh	„	0	2	6
Cheese	„	0	1	6
Flour	per cwt.	1	18	0
Candles, tallow	per pound	0	1	0
Lampoil	per gallon	0	1	0
Tea	per pound	0	2	6
Sugar, brown	„	0	0	3
„ loaf	„	0	0	6
Tobacco	„	0	4	0
Potatoes	per cwt.	1	8	0
Rice	per pound	0	0	5
Coffee	„	0	1	6
Salt	„	0	0	2
Soap	„	0	0	4
Starch	„	0	0	9
Fuel.—Coals, Sydney		6	0	0
„ Port Arthur		2	10	0
„ New Town		2	5	0
Firewood, she oak, cut up		2	0	0
„ gum „		1	10	0
„ gum, uncut		1	0	0

Remarks on No. 27.—As compared with 1854 this shows :—

Increase.	Decrease.
Pork, 2*d.* per lb.	Beef, 5*d.* per lb.
Cheese, 3*d.* per lb.	Mutton, 4*d.* per lb.
Potatoes, 11*s.* per cwt.	Butter, 1*s.* per lb.
Rice, ½*d.* per lb.	Sugar, ½*d.* per lb.
	Coffee, 1*s.* per lb.

No. 28.

RETURN of the REVENUE of the COLONY for the Year 1854.

From what Source derived.	Amount. £	s.	d.
Customs	182,489	7	10
Port and harbour dues	5,050	3	6
Rents	545	14	0
Tolls	2,464	11	6
Licences	23,917	11	0
Postage	6,701	3	3
Fees of office	1,106	6	0
Fines, fees of court, and forfeitures	9,379	1	4
Quit rents	405	19	10
Sale of Government property	168	14	10
Reimbursements in aid of expenses incurred by the Government	24,858	1	0
Deposit account	6,412	15	7
Interest	20	5	4
Miscellaneous receipts	4,261	10	10
Immigration deposits	7,773	10	0
Total £	275,554	15	10

Remarks on No. 28.—As compared with 1853 this shows an increase of 17,682*l.*; principally in the customs and licences.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 29.

RETURN of the EXPENDITURE of the COLONY in 1854 from the General Revenue.

On what Service.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Civil and legislative establishments	43,199	0	9
Police and gaols	61,855	12	3
Judicial	13,129	2	5
Ecclesiastical	12,757	9	4
Miscellaneous establishment	22,147	14	9
Services, exclusive of establishments	64,888	8	1
Works and buildings	13,875	3	1
Roads and streets	11,572	7	7
In aid of public institutions	3,150	0	0
Remittances to Agent General	19,000	0	0
Immigration	11,075	7	7
Total £	276,650	5	10

Remarks on No. 29.—As compared with 1853 this shows an increase of 85,207*l.*

No. 30.

RETURN of the LAND REVENUE of the COLONY in 1854.

Source from which derived.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Sale of Crown land by auction	47,171	18	6
Sale of land under regulations of November 1851	25,511	0	0
Licences to occupy Crown land	25,141	12	8
Rent of Crown land selected for future purchase	4,010	11	7
Fees received by the Surveyor-General	3,524	5	6
Fees for surveys	978	5	0
Fees for diagrams on grant deeds	152	17	6
Moiety of fines on grants	57	7	1
Quit rents subsequent to April 1846	374	14	0
One third for redemption of quit rents	156	1	5
Royalty on coals	122	11	10
Repayments on account of passage of immigrants	3,466	10	0
Repayments by immigrants	74	15	0
Sale of Government property	273	6	6
Instalment of debt from Bridgewater Commissioners	500	0	0
Interest from „ „	322	10	0
Rent of observatory building	50	0	0
For advertising in the Gazette	0	17	6
Repayments by heads of departments	323	10	2
Salary of a surveyor forfeited	12	18	7
Total £	112,225	12	7

Remarks on No. 30.—As compared with 1853 this shows an increase of 21,535*l.*

No. 31.

RETURN showing the EXPENDITURE from the LAND FUND during the Year 1854.

	Service.				Amount.		
					£	s.	d.
Establishments.	Survey Department				16,102	3	7
	Commissioner of Titles				994	18	0
	Correspondence, collection and audit of Land Revenue				2,111	5	6
	Accountant of Stores				70	3	5
	Aborigines				874	4	6
	Public Works				641	17	7
	Immigration Officers				1,437	15	3
	Miscellaneous				5,766	15	2
	Transport				89	2	5
	Assessments				19,329	7	9
	Rents				450	0	0
	Charitable Allowances				26	6	1
	Roads, Streets, and Bridges				4,366	0	6
	Works and Buildings				993	2	7
	Survey of Land				884	2	10
	Immigration				9,420	12	8
	* Accountant of Stores				5,298	10	1
	Advances to heads of Departments				350	0	0
	Temporary increase to Officers whose Salaries are provided for under the Imperial Act 13 & 14 Vict., No. 59.—						
			£	s.	d.		
	viz. Schedule Part 1.	-	6,788	0	1		
	„ 2.	-	3,506	8	5		
	„ 3.	-	10,181	0	4		
						20,475	8 10
		Total	-	£		89,681	16 9

* This includes rations for the aborigines.

Remarks on No. 31.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of 12,609*l.*

No. 32.

RETURN relative to LANDS granted, sold, or held under DEPASTURING LICENCES on 31st December 1854.

	A.	R.	P.
Number of acres of land in the colony	14,482,892	0	0
Number of acres of land granted or sold	2,804,183	0	0
Number of acres of land held under Depasturing licences on 31st December 1854, producing a rental of 29,152*l* 4*s*. 3*d*.	2,284,214	0	0
Country allotments sold in 1854 containing	32,433	1	30
Amount for which the country allotments sold, 34,157*l*. 11*s*.			
Average price per acre, 21*s*. 0¾*d*. per acre.			
Town and suburban allotments sold in 1854 containing	2,245	2	31¾
Amount for which town and suburban allotments sold, 41,962*l*. 7*s*.			
Average price per acre 18*l*. 13*s*. 8½*d*.			

Remarks on No. 32.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease in the quantity of country land sold, of 3,117 acres, but an increase of 9*d*. an acre in the average price; of town and suburban allotments an increase of 1,958 acres, but a decrease of 20*l*. 17*s*. an acre in the average price. This may easily be accounted for, as nearly all the best town and suburban land in the island has been sold.

The roads that are now being opened to the western country will throw open to the public an immense extent of country available for pasturage.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 33.

RETURN of the NUMBER of Acres in Crop, the Nature of the Crop, and the Produce in 1854.

Nature of Crop.	Acres in Cultivation.	Produce.
	Acres.	Bushels.
Barley	10,547¾	125,835
Beans	29¾	653
Oats	35,320½	526,547
Peas	459	6,665
Wheat	49,920	790,588¼
Tares	303¼	1,467
		Tons.
Carrots	108¾	508
Hops	55	27
Hay, or English grasses	27,023¾	18,886
Mangel Wurzel	42¾	92
Potatoes	5,932½	23,256
Turnips	4,989¼	21,903
Total	127,732	—

Remarks on No. 33.—As compared with 1853, this shows :—

Increase.	Decrease.
Oats, 4,368 acres.	Wheat, 1,203 acres.
Peas, 54 acres.	Barley, 1,235.
Potatoes, 402 acres.	Beans, 61 acres.
Turnips, 1,346 acres.	Mangel wurzel, 11 acres.
English grasses, 7,782 acres.	Tares, 68 acres.

Total increase, 11,286 acres.

No. 34.

RETURN of the NUMBER of LIVE STOCK in the Colony on the 31st December 1854.

	Sheep.	Horned Cattle.	Horses.	Goats.	Pigs.	Asses.	Mules.
1. Campbell Town	280,140	3,947	1,580	17	695	—	—
2. Hamilton	264,944	8,739	1,152	18	1,281	—	—
3. Oatlands	238,894	4,528	1,040	10	1,280	1	—
4. Bothwell	174,544	2,939	662	2	671	—	1
5. Fingal	156,480	5,334	664	125	1,339	—	—
6. Great Swanport	151,194	2,690	530	93	725	—	—
7. Norfolk Plains	136,243	5,241	1,548	27	1,844	—	—
8. Richmond	66,958	3,354	1,191	210	1,956	—	—
9. George Town	61,601	1,890	194	34	260	—	—
10. Morven	53,404	3,144	1,138	31	1,003	—	—
11. Launceston	50,281	6,740	1,127	100	1,274	—	—
12. Brighton	49,934	2,177	1,094	121	1,410	—	—
13. Sorell	47,176	2,322	701	34	1,792	10	—
14. New Norfolk	39,224	1,398	554	23	560	1	—
15. Westbury	34,533	35,703	2,120	97	2,505	—	—
16. Horton	8,032	7,541	294	57	960	—	—
17. Hobart Town	6,663	1,254	1,108	402	1,635	1	4
18. Huon	6,553	2,981	405	123	738	1	—
19. Port Sorell	4,510	1,631	251	97	506	—	—
20. Franklin	—	199	31	8	164	—	—
	1,831,308	103,752	17,384	1,629	22,598	14	5

Remarks on No. 34.—As compared with 1853 :—

Increase.	Decrease.
Horses, 1,929	Sheep, 111,242
Cattle, 11,949	Goats, 176
Asses, 2	Pigs, 5,484.
Mules, 5	

The seven first districts are almost exclusively sheep districts.

No. 15. is an extensive cattle district, rich land and well watered.

No. 20. has just been separated from No. 18. and is a new district, very thickly wooded, from which most of the timber exported is procured.

In No 13. the asses are used as beasts of burden to convey grain over the rocky gullies of "Paradise."

No. 16. belongs almost entirely to the Van Diemen's Land Company.

No. 35.

RETURN of the number of CIVIL CASES tried and the number of CASES in which damages were assessed by Juries in the Supreme Court in 1854.

Before Juries of twelve.		Before Juries of four.		Total.
Common and mixed.	Special.	Defended.	Undefended, in which damages were assessed.	
12	8	18	2	40

Remarks on No. 35 as compared with 1853.—Increase of twelve common jury cases; two special cases; ten defended cases: total increase twenty-four cases.

No. 36.

RETURN of CONVICTIONS in the Supreme Court in 1854.

Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Total.
98	7	105

Remarks on No. 36. as compared with 1853.—Decrease of fourteen felonies and six misdemeanors.

No. 37.

RETURN of the number of CONVICTIONS before the Courts of Quarter Sessions in 1854.

Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Total.
34	128	162

No. 38.

RETURN of the number of CRIMINALS executed in the Colony in 1854.

Men who have been Convicts.	Male Convicts.	Total.
4	3	7

Remarks on No. 38. as compared with 1853.

Decrease of four criminals.

No. 39.

RETURN of PROCESS issued out of the COURT OF REQUESTS during the Year 1854.

Summonses issued.	Fieri Facias.	Capias ad Satisfaciendum.	Actions brought.	Actions tried.
774	152	1	774	430

Remarks on No. 39.—The actions in this Court are limited to 10*l.* in Hobart Town, and to 30*l.* in the county districts.

No. 40.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CONDITIONAL PARDONS and of TICKETS OF LEAVE issued during 1854.

Conditional Pardons granted.	Tickets of Leave issued.	Deaths of Convicts reported.
2,027	4,058	128

Remarks on No. 40.—The 4,058 ticket-of-leave holders will, if their conduct continue good, be entitled next year to conditional pardons.

No. 41.

RETURN relative to the GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS in VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, 1854.

Number of Schools aided by Government.	Scholars attending.			Expense in 1854.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	£	s.	d.
50	1,635	1,266	2,901	7,269	2	4

Remarks on No. 41., as compared with 1853:—

An increase in expense of 1,950*l.*
A decrease of 195 boys and 225 girls.

No. 42.

RETURN relative to CHILDREN in the QUEEN'S ORPHAN SCHOOLS, 1854.

Children chargeable on Colonial Funds.			Children chargeable on Convict Funds.			Cases of Sickness in the Year.	Deaths.	Number admitted in 1854			Number apprenticed or discharged in 1854.			Total Number in the Schools on 31st December 1854.		
M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.			M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.
67	53	120	171	131	302	775	53	79	70	149	56	63	119	238	184	422

Remarks on No. 42.—The great number of deaths was owing to the removal to the schools of a number of sickly infants from the female factory.

No. 43.

RETURN of DISEASES TREATED at Her Majesty's Colonial Hospital, in 1854.

Diseases.	Cases treated.	Deaths.
Diseases of Stomach and Bowels	604	12
Diseases of the Lungs	538	58
Abscesses and Ulcers	489	3
Diseases of the Eyes	330	—
Rheumatic Affections	287	3
Diseases of the Brain	255	34
Wounds and Injuries	247	6
Venereal Affections	106	2
Diseases of the Skin	60	—
Fevers	46	3
Dropsies	21	11
Diseases of the Liver	18	4
Other Diseases	448	32
Total	3,449	168

Remarks on No. 43. as compared with 1853 :—

Decrease of 227 cases and 99 deaths.
Fewer cases of Lung disease.
„ Eyes.
„ Wounds, &c.
„ Fevers.
More cases of Stomach diseases.
„ Abscesses, &c.

The cases treated in these hospitals are almost exclusively those of convicts.

No. 44.

RETURN of PERSONS TREATED in the Lunatic Asylums in 1854.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining on 31st December 1853:—			
Free Persons	59	36	95
Convicts	108	47	155
Admitted during 1854	60	19	79
Discharged cured in 1854	26	23	49
Improved	2	—	2
Without improvement to friends	8	—	8
Died	25	6	31
Escaped (since re-captured 5)	6	—	6
Number remaining on 31st December 1854:—			
Free Persons	53	33	86
Convicts	111	42	153
Total	164	75	239

Remarks on No. 44. as compared with 1853 :—

20 more cases admitted.
12 more cured.
5 more died.

Upwards of 200 of the cases are supposed to be incurable.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 45.

RETURN of the NUMBER of ABORIGINES in the COLONY and located at OYSTER COVE on 31st December 1854.

Number of Aborigines in the Colony.					Number of Officers on the Establishment.	Expense of the Oyster Cove Establishment in 1854.
Men.	Women.	Children.		Total.		
		Boys.	Girls.			
3	11	2	—	16	2	£ s. d. 2,006 8 8 averaging 125*l.* a head per annum.

NOTE.—One man went to sea in 1854 on board a whaler.

One woman married to a sawyer in 1854, to whom was granted out of the Land Fund a dowry of 24*l.* a year.

In 1815 the number of aborigines was estimated at	-	-	5,000
1835 the number was known to be	-	-	111
1845 „ „	-	-	45
1855 „ „	-	-	16

Remarks on No. 45.—In 1847 the aborigines were removed from Flinder's Island, where the climate was cold and bleak, to the sheltered inlet called Oyster Cove. There were removed

13 men.
22 women.
5 boys.
5 girls.

In the 7 years 9 men, 10 women, 3 boys, and 5 girls have died. No children have been born.

The rations supplied to the aborigines are on a most liberal scale, and they use large quantities of tobacco. They are permitted to go out on hunting parties for days together, but although every care is taken of them the race will be extinct in the course of a very few years.

No. 46.

SYNOPSIS of METEOROLOGICAL TABLES in 1854.

Thermometer in shade.			Rain.		Remarks.
Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	Number of days on which rain fell.	Quantity in inches.	
85·00	33·5	53·03	42	30·56	Thunder Storms, January. „ March. „ October. „ November. Hot winds, January, N.W. Gale of wind, 26th February, with heavy rain, 8¾ inches having fallen in 38 hours, causing a flood. Gale of wind on 22d March, with heavy rain, causing a flood. Gale of wind on 16th September, lasting 24 hours. The mean pressure of the year was 29,785 inches.

Remarks on No. 46. as compared with 1853 :—

The quantity of rain which fell in 1854 exceeded that of 1853 by 16·03 inches, and also exceeded that of any former year since 1842, except 1849, when the rain fall was 33·52 inches.

In 1854 less rain fell in the four winter months than in the month of February, which is the height of the Tasmanian summer.

No. 47.

RETURN of the EXPENDITURE from the COMMISSARIAT CHEST in 1854.

Service.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Commissariat, including provisions, fuel, and light for the Army and Ordnance -	59,600 15 2
Army services, staff and regimental -	34,547 7 10
Ordnance and engineers services - -	9,787 14 9
Advances in aid of naval and other departments - - - - -	3,408 2 10
Convict services - - -	172,973 18 8
Total - £	280,317 19 3

Remarks on No. 47. as compared with 1853 :—
Increase of expense on account of convict services, 7,748*l.*
Total increase of expenditure, 11,403*l.*

No. 48.

RETURN relative to the CONSERVANCY of the PEACE, 1854.

Country gentlemen - - - -	113
Officers holding civil appointments - -	49
Merchants and bankers - - -	31
Retired officers - - - -	20
Surgeons - - - - -	15
Clergymen - - - - -	9
Gentlemen in the two principal towns - -	9
Naval and military officers on full pay - -	9
Barristers - - - -	3
	268

Remarks on No. 48.—It is the intention of the Government to omit the names of the nine clergymen from the next commission of the peace, in consequence of a wish to that effect expressed by the Lord Bishop of Tasmania.

No. 49.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of HOUSES in the COLONY, according to the last Census, which was taken on 1st March 1851.

Built of Stone or Brick.	Built of Wood.	Total.	Inhabited in 1851.	Uninhabited in 1851.
5,723	6,121	11,844	11,245	599

Remarks on No. 49.—The number of houses, especially wooden ones, must have greatly increased since 1851.

No. 50.

RETURN showing the RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS in the Colony on 1st March 1851, when the last Census was taken.

Church of England - - - -	45,073
Church of Scotland - - - -	4,485
Church of Rome - - - -	12,444
Wesleyans - - - - -	3,772
Other Dissenters - - - -	2,379
Jews - - - - -	435
Pagans and Mahommedans - - -	21

Remarks on No. 50.—It is supposed that in consequence of the great influx of Irish immigrants during the last few years, the number of Roman Catholics has much increased.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 34.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 34.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Finniss, to the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., G.C.B.

(No. 29.) Adelaide, April 7, 1855.
(Received Sept. 21, 1855.)

Sir,

In transmitting the annual Blue Book for 1854, prepared by Mr. Richardson, the acting Colonial Secretary, I have the honour to draw your attention to the leading facts detailed in those returns, and to offer such remarks upon the general progress of the colony as may serve to show its present social and commercial condition.

Population.

The number of persons of European descent was, at the close of 1853, assumed to be 78,944 souls. At the close of the year 1854, this number had increased to 92,545 souls. The number of Government immigrants during this period was 8,814. The excess of births over deaths amounted to 2,105. Hence the increase of population at the close of the year, which amounted to 13,601 souls, must have arisen chiefly from an excess of arrivals over departures.

A constant interchange of population is going on, which will be best understood by giving the number of arrivals, which was 18,333, and departures, which was 6,844. The Government immigrants, despatched by the Land and Emigration Commissioners, arrived in thirty vessels, at various periods of the year, and were much needed, as, from the want of labour during the early part of 1854, it was difficult to obtain contracts for the various public works which were on the estimates. This state of things gradually improved, and before the close of the year it became evident that all works for which provision had been made in the estimates might be safely and advantageously proceeded with.

Pauperism.

During this same year 148 men, 216 women, and 321 children were recipients of Government relief; but on the last day of the year there were 37 men, 81 women, and 136 children on the list of destitute persons.

The cost of out-door relief is for adults 9*d.* a day each, and for children half this sum.

The cost of in-door relief, which includes, besides, rations, medicines, medical attendance, clothing, and lodging, is equal to about 1*s.* 6*d.* a day for each adult, and 10½*d.* for each child.

Hospital.

In the public hospital the number of admissions during the year was 378 males and 199 females, the daily average being 37 males and 21 females.

Forty-two males and twenty-three females died during the year within this establishment.

Lunatic Asylum.

The number of patients received into the Lunatic Asylum during the year was 31 males and 27 females; the daily average of persons under treatment was 22 males and 16 females. There occurred four deaths, one male and three females.

Crime.

The supreme court, which holds its sessions in Adelaide only, is presided over by two judges; and there are in the rural districts and in Adelaide together fourteen minor courts, attended by nine stipendiary and by about 109 unpaid magistrates.

The number of convictions in the supreme court for the higher criminal offences was 69, including one case of capital sentence.

The number of cases heard and determined in the several local courts were, criminal trials, assaults, and drunkenness, 2,168.

Informations under Acts of Council, 1,625; these numbers, under both heads of classification, include cases of dismissal as well as convictions, the separate returns of which have not been furnished to the Government.

Police.

The means under the control of the Government for the protection of life and property, and the detection of offenders, consist of a police force of 100

mounted men, 102 foot police constables, and 36 aboriginal police—the annual cost of which in 1854 was 38,219*l.*

Education.

The progress of education in a new colony is necessarily slow. The dispersed condition of the population, and the value of the labour of children to parents and relatives, are difficulties against which a Government endeavouring to promote habits of frequent attendance at established schools has to contend. The Board of Education, constituted by Act of Council to license teachers and assist them by public grants in aid of the school fees, report favourably of the result of their efforts, and of the Government inspection; and remark in these words, that "the marked improvement which is gradually taking place in the acquire-"ments and efficiency of teachers; the important additions to the number of "schools, especially in the country districts, where they were most needed; "and the permanency and stability which are beginning to characterize many "of these establishments, are all so many indications of steady progress in the "state of public education, which place the present in no unfavourable com-"parison with the past."

Some estimate may be formed of the results of the system now in operation by stating that the number of licensed schools at the close of the past year was:—

In Adelaide and other towns	32
In the suburban districts	26
In the rural districts	67

These schools during the month of December were attended by 3,008 boys and by 2,456 girls.

Agriculture.

From returns made to the Government, it appears that 1,217,323 acres of land have been alienated from the Crown during the progress of the colony, and up to the end of 1854. The number of acres occupied is now throughout the colony 663,423 acres, of which 129,692 are under cultivation with the following crops:—

Wheat	89,945 acres	Potatoes	1,712 acres
Oats	4,359 „	Vineyards	409 „
Barley	6,454 „	Orchards	451 „
Hay	23,402 „	Other crops	391 „
Maize	43 „		

Upon these lands there are kept or depastured, irrespective of the cattle roaming on the waste lands under leases to stockholders for fourteen years, 10,184 horses, 29,638 cows, 21,923 bullocks, 22,659 calves, 193,749 sheep, 830 goats, and 17,343 swine.

The total value of the grain, flour, hay, potatoes, butter, cheese, and other farm produce exported in the year 1854 amounted to 411,978*l.*, of which grain made up 40,717*l.*, flour and bran 275,550*l.*, and hay 83,289*l.*

The weight of the prize cereals at the agricultural exhibition of 1855 was, wheat, 64 lbs. 14 oz., 65 lbs. 12 oz., 64 lbs. 15 oz; oats, 44 lbs. 2 oz., 41 lbs. 13 oz.; and barley, 59 lbs. 2 oz., 54 lbs. 14 oz., the bushel measure.

The past year has been highly unfavourable to agriculture in consequence of the dryness of the season; the crops cannot be estimated at half their usual produce.

Land Sales.

The lands alienated from the Crown during the year 1854 were 213,925 acres, which realized the sum of 377,303*l.*, being the largest amount yet derived from this source in any year.

The greatest vigour and activity have been displayed in the surveys, to endeavour to meet this large demand for land: the field parties were increased in number, and additional assistance furnished in the office work. By these means no less than 313,949 acres were surveyed. The cost of the field work was 7*d.* an acre; and the cost of the land office, in which 2,425 grants were prepared, superintendence, and all office expenses, being added, the cost of these surveys was $9\frac{2}{5}d.$ an acre, an average somewhat in excess of previous years.

The returns required to be annually furnished to the Imperial Government accompany this despatch, and contain all necessary details respecting the survey department.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

I do not expect a continuance of these large land sales; indeed, a falling off is already visible during the first quarter of the current year, which clearly indicates that we must be prepared for diminished revenue from this source.

Pastoral Interests.

Events during the year 1854 were highly favourable to the development of the pastoral interests of the colony. The supply of labour has been sufficient, and the value of stock has much increased, so that every encouragement has facilitated the discovery and occupation of new lands.

The total quantity of lands now occupied under fourteen years' leases exceeds 10,281,000 acres. These "runs" produce an annual rental of 9,724*l.*, and maintain 1,574,975 sheep, besides great cattle, the numbers of which are not included in any authentic return. The total number of sheep in the province, from returns which may be relied on, is estimated at 1,768,724.

Not many years back the stockholders lamented the circumscribed space open to their exertions and enterprise, and were apprehensive that the depasturing capabilities of the colony were limited to the country then occupied. Now, however, the desert interior is being rapidly subdued to the purposes of the squatter; and no doubt, amongst the 185 millions of acres of unsold and unoccupied lands which lie within the boundaries of the colony, there is ample pasture for all the increase of stock which a rapidly increasing population will require either for subsistence or profit.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of all imports into the colony during the year 1854 was 2,147,107*l.* Deducting 92,654*l.* of bullion and coin, the net imports were 2,054,453*l.*

The total value of exports was 1,322,822*l.* The amount of bullion and coin to be deducted, viz., 499,718*l.*, leaves the net value of exports 823,104*l.* Of this value, however, 128,682*l.* consisted of goods re-exported; and the staple produce of the colony was only equal in value to 694,422*l.*

The imports have evidently exceeded the means of the colonists, and the effect is becoming apparent in the diminished receipts of customs for the current quarter.

Tonnage.

The tonnage of vessels inwards at Port Adelaide was 146,666 tons, and of vessels outwards, 143,868 tons; the total tonnage during the year being 290,534 tons.

The amount of duties levied at the Customs for the year ended 31st December 1854 was 166,212*l.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

The receipts of *ordinary revenue* were during 1854—from Customs and internal revenue, 200,774*l.*; transfer from the Land Fund, 144,000*l.*; raised by way of loan on the security of colonial revenue bonds, for railway purposes, 104,655*l.*, making a total receipt on account of ordinary revenue of 449,429*l.* A previous balance (143,240*l.*) brought forward increased the income to the sum of 592,670*l.*

The expenditure of the colonial government, chargeable against this income, amounted to 393,288*l.*, leaving a balance for the service of the year 1855, of 199,382*l.*

The receipts of *territorial revenue* were, from land sales and rents of Crown lands, 392,302*l.* If the balance of the previous year (132,949*l.*) be added, the sum of 525,251*l.* was available for the service of the year 1854.

The total expenditure chargeable against this receipt amounted to 200,353*l.*, which includes actual expenditure in the colony, and a grant of 144,000*l.* to the ordinary revenue, as before stated. Hence there resulted a balance of 324,898*l.* at the disposal of the colonial government. Of this balance, 231,349*l.* was remitted during 1854 to the Land and Emigration Commissioners, leaving a net available balance of territorial revenue at the disposal of the colonial government for the year 1855, amounting to 93,549*l.* The total ways and means derived from revenue of all kinds were thus 973,922*l.*; and the total expenditure, including remittances to the Land and Emigration Commissioners under the head of expenditure, was 680,990*l.*; the general balance being 292,931*l.*, to be brought forward for the current year.

Legislation, and Progress of Public Improvements.

The Legislative Council during the Session of 1854 passed 24 Acts, all of which were assented to by the Governor, except No. 12, which, being an Act to increase his own salary, was reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

The titles of these several Acts are appended. Some of them require special notice. Act No. 2, to organize and establish a volunteer military force in South Australia, has been brought into operation by the raising, arming, and equipping of two companies of artillery and twelve companies of infantry, formed into two battalions.

The establishment consists of eight staff officers and serjeants, two lieutenant-colonels, forty-two officers, and 840 rank and file.

The training of this force under Major Moore, of Her Majesty's 11th Regiment, who has been appointed colonel commandant of the volunteer force, is proceeding satisfactorily.

The Militia Act, No. 9, is accordingly in abeyance, the compulsory enrolment by ballot having been made contingent on the non-enrolment of volunteers in sufficient numbers.

The next Acts in importance are Nos. 18 and 20, which relate to the raising of loans, secured on the colonial revenue, for the purposes respectively of constructing a railway from the capital to a town about twenty-six miles distant, and for the deepening of the harbour.

These Acts have been passed on the principle that it is wise to devote a portion of the surplus revenue for a limited number of years to pay the interest and principal of loans to be raised by the issue of Government bonds secured on such appropriations, the proceeds to be applied in the construction of railways and other reproductive works.

The difficulty of moving English capitalists to invest in colonial railways, and the impossibility of constructing such works by the Government out of the ordinary resources of the colony, have rendered it necessary either to forego these important improvements of modern times, or to execute them by means of loans.

There appears to be no reason to doubt the ultimate success of these Government investments; and a colonial revenue which, being at present sufficient to bear the charges incurred by these loans, must necessarily continue to increase with the increase of wealth and population, cannot fail to redeem these liabilities, if kept within the limits of an existing surplus.

Public improvements, upon which 58,333*l.* were expended during 1854, have been carried on. The principal works were, additions to the legislative council chamber; convict prison and stockade; armory, and additions to police barracks; lighthouse on Troubridge shoal; tramway of eight miles to connect the River Murray with the sea at Port Elliott; breakwater at Port Elliott. When these and other works in progress are completed, they are estimated to cost about 187,793*l.*, provision for which is made in Acts of appropriation, or land fund estimates which have been laid before the Legislative Council.

In comparing this statement with the Blue Book return, it will be found to differ in the amount of expenditure, because I have omitted the sum of 80,000*l.* for a new Lunatic Asylum, as it is doubtful whether this work will be proceeded with at present, owing to its great cost.

Roads and Bridges.

In addition to the expenditure on public works which I have given, very extensive improvements were carried out under the head of roads and bridges.

Thus 64,000*l.* were expended in the commencement of the Adelaide City and Port Railway, whilst upwards of 92,000*l.* were expended on the main roads of the colony, and 12,648*l.* were contributed by Government for the making and repair of district roads, in aid of an equivalent sum raised by district assessment.

Similar aid to the extent of 10,500*l.* was granted to the corporation of the city of Adelaide. These several amounts, together with other minor improvements, are included in a gross expenditure of 199,564*l.*, which was incurred during the year on public improvements beyond the amount of 58,333*l.* before adverted to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. T. FINNISS.

The Right Hon.
Sir George Grey, Bart., G.C.B.,
&c. &c.

RETURN of LAND sold during the

COUNTY OR DISTRICT.	Number and extent of lots sold in the colony.						Price named for the land.		
	Not exceeding 320 acres.		Above 320, but not exceeding 640 acres.		Total No. of lots sold.	Average size of lots.	Total number of acres sold.	Minimum price per acre, if sold by auction.	Price per acre, if sold after exposure to, but not by auction.	Upset price, if any specially named for the land.
	No. of lot.	No. of acres.	No. of lot.	No. of acres.						
		A. R. P.				A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
ADELAIDE—										
Town lots	—	—	—	—						
Suburban lots	239	5,417 3 0	1	534	543	68 0 24	37,004 3 0	1 0 0 1/10	1 17 9 1/10	1 0 0
Country lots	294	26,620 0 0	9	4,433						
Special country lots, if any	—	—	—	—						
HINDMARSH—										
Town lots	87	39 0 29	—	—						80 0 0
Suburban lots	24	1,776 0 0	—	—	342	70 1 25	23,991 0 29	1 0 0 1/10	1 4 3 3/10	—
Country lots	231	19,022 0 0	6	3,078						1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	1	76 0 0	—	—						—
STANLEY—										
Town lots	32	16 0 0	—	—						10 0 0
Suburban lots	6	480 0 0	—	—	195	116 0 29	20,704 0 0	1 0 0 1/10	1 0 0	—
Country lots	147	14,798 0 0	10	5,410						1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	—	—	—	—						—
GAWLER—										
Town lots	—	—	—	—						
Suburban lots	12	963 0 0	—	—	19	97 2 23	1,860 0 0	1 0 6	1 0 0	1 0 0
Country lots	6	547 0 0	—	—						
Special country lots, if any	—	—	1	350						
LIGHT—										
Town lots	—	—	—	—						
Suburban lots	19	1,828 0 0	3	1,704	461	144 3 9	66,653 0 0	1 0 0 1/10	1 1 6 8/10	1 0 0
Country lots	395	40,328 0 0	42	22,448						
Special country lots, if any	1	95 0 0	—	—						
EYRE—										
Town lots	—	—	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	—	—	—	46	149 1 12	6,869 0 0	1 0 0 5/10	0 19 10 2/10	1 0 0
Country lots	44	6,117 0 0	2	752						
Special country lots, if any	—	—	—	—						
STURT—										
Town lots	—	—	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	—	—	—	206	126 2 2	26,062 0 0	1 1 0 2/10	1 5 0 4/10	1 0 0
Country lots	200	21,579 0 0	6	4,483						
Special country lots, if any	—	—	—	—						
GREY—										
Town lots	61	17 0 0	—	—						10 0 0
Suburban lots	—	—	—	—	214	106 2 18	22,816 0 0	1 3 1	1 6 8 6/10	—
Country lots	135	13,327 0 0	18	9,472						1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	—	—	—	—						—
ROBE—		200								
Town lots	8		—	—						10 0 0
Suburban lots	—	—	—	—	13	49 0 12	638 0 0	1 0 0 7/10	- -	—
Country lots	5	636 0 0	—	—						1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	—	—	—	—						—
RUSSELL—										
Town lots	—	—	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	—	—	—	4	78 3 0	315 0 0	1 2 2	1 0 0	1 0 0
Country lots	4	315 0 0	—	—						
Special country lots, if any	—	—	—	—						
FLINDERS—										
Town lots	—	—	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	—	—	—	25	84 1 4	2,107 0 0	1 0 0 7/10	1 0 0	1 0 0
Country lots	25	2,107 0 0	—	—						
Special country lots, if any	—	—	—	—						
BURRA—										
Town lots	—	—	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	—	—	—	34	139 0 28	4,721 0 0	1 0 0 2/10	1 0 0	1 0 0
Country lots	34	4,721 0 0	—	—						
Special country lots, if any	—	—	—	—						
FROME—										
Town lots	—	—	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Country lots	—	—	—	—						
Special country lots, if any	—	—	—	—						
NOT NAMED—										
Town lots	7	3 2 0	—	—						20 0 0
Suburban lots	—	—	—	—	14	13 0 11	184 0 20	1 1 9 6/10	1 7 9 3/10	—
Country lots	2	173 0 0	—	—						1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	5	7 2 20	—	—						—
TOTAL—										
Town lots	188	77 1 29	—	—	188	- -	77 1 29	—	—	—
Suburban lots	300	10,464 0 0	4	2,238	304	- -	12,702 0 0	—	—	—
Country lots	1523	149,641 0 0	93	50,076	1,616	- -	199,717 0 0	—	—	—
Special country lots, if any	7	1,078 2 20	1	350	8	- -	1,428 2 20	—	—	—
Grand Totals	2018	161,261 0 9	98	52,664	2,116	- -	213,925 0 9	- -	- -	- -

March 21, 1855.

Year ended the 31st December 1854.

Price at which it sold.			Total amount of purchase money.					Mode of appropriation.	Remarks.
Price per acre, if fixed.	Average price per acre, if sold by auction.	Price per acre of blocks sold by contract.	Total amount of the purchase money.	Proportion of purchase money received in the colony.	Total amount of remissions allowed in the purchase of land.	Amount of credit allowed under certificates from Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.	Amount remaining due.	State the purpose to which the sums received for land have been applied.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s.	£ s.	£		
1 0 0	2 4 $7\frac{6}{10}$	1 17 $9\frac{1}{16}$	76,771 10 0	76,411 10 0	260 0	100 0	–		
1 0 0	1 16 $3\frac{1}{10}$	1 4 $3\frac{3}{10}$	38,554 5 0	38,554 5 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 5 $1\frac{2}{10}$	1 0 0	24,000 15 0	23,281 12 0	- -	719 3	–		
1 0 0	1 19 $5\frac{5}{10}$	1 0 0	3,215 0 0	3,215 0 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 17 $3\frac{7}{10}$	1 1 $6\frac{8}{10}$	119,313 9 0	119,313 9 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 12 $11\frac{3}{10}$	0 19 $10\frac{2}{10}$	9,195 1 0	9,195 1 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 17 $8\frac{4}{10}$	1 5 $0\frac{4}{10}$	47,937 2 0	47,937 2 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	2 2 $10\frac{3}{10}$	1 6 $8\frac{6}{10}$	48,207 13 0	48,207 13 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 17 0	- -	1,180 5 0	1,180 5 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 0 $6\frac{4}{10}$	1 0 0	317 0 0	317 0 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 8 $0\frac{6}{10}$	1 0 0	2,669 10 0	2,669 10 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 3 5	1 0 0	4,814 15 0	4,814 15 0	—	—	–		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	–		
1 0 0	79 14 $8\frac{4}{10}$	1 7 $9\frac{3}{10}$	1,127 6 3	1,127 6 3	—	—	–		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	–		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	–		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	–		
- -	- -	- -	377,303 11 3	376,224 8 3	260 0	819 3	–		

Sales by Public Auction.

1854:	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
January	10,026	2	9	19,130	15	0
February	12,186	2	11	21,214	10	0
March -	12,993	0	20	23,150	11	3
April -	12,126	3	0	24,618	15	0
May -	12,759	1	0	28,722	5	0
June -	37,299	1	0	76,978	10	0
July -	13,598	0	6	25,979	15	0
August -	11,543	2	0	21,704	5	0
September	17,143	3	5	32,190	15	0
October -	11,482	0	0	20,710	0	0
November	8,184	3	38	18,923	15	0
December	14,630	1	0	20,004	0	0
Total -	173,974	0	9	333,327	16	3

Sales by Private Contract.

1854:	A.	£	s.
January -	6,521	6,659	0
February -	3,925	4,100	18
March -	6,829	7,125	6
April -	4,315	4,703	17
May -	5,356	5,510	16
June -	2,878	3,114	6
July -	3,469	4,093	18
August -	1,835	2,074	15
September -	1,687	1,712	6
October -	517	532	7
November -	1,383	2,770	0
December -	1,236	1,578	0
Total -	39,951	43,975	15

The difference between the amount realized and the number of acres in the sales by private contract, is explained by the deposits having been forfeited upon several sections run up at auction considerably above the upset price, the purchaser in which case does not obtain the section at one pound per acre, but completes the purchase of the person forfeiting by paying the balance of the amount bid.

(Certified correct) A. H. Freeling, Capt. R.E., Surveyor-General.

RETURN of LAND reserved or purchased for Public Uses, or granted without Purchase, and Miscellaneous Information respecting Crown Lands, for the Year ended the 31st December 1854.

County or District.	Land reserved for public uses.		Land purchased for public uses.			Free grants (if any).			MISCELLANEOUS.														
									Remissions in purchase of land.				Certificates from Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.				State the particulars of any tax on cultivated or uncultivated land, by what authority levied, and the amount received in the year.	Amount remaining due for the past year.	Amount remaining due for previous years.	Amount of waste land alienated.	Estimated amount of waste land remaining.	Estimated proportion of waste land available for settlement.	Total number of acres of waste land surveyed and open for settlement at the present date.	REMARKS.
	Extent of the reserve in acres.	Object of the reserve.	Extent of the purchase in acres.	Cost.	Object of the purchase.	Grantee's name.	Number of acres.	For what reason made.	To officers of the army and navy.	To officers of the E. I. Company's service.	Amount of other remission (if any), and state for what reason made.	State the names and description of all parties to whom remission has been granted.	No. of certificate.	Date exercised.	Amount of deposit.	Extent to which certificate has been used.							
	A.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.					£	£						£		£ s.	£ s.				
Adelaide	–	Roads, water, quarries, and other reserves.	62 3 4	2,499 6 2	Lunatic Asylum.	–	–	–	200	–	–	Camillo de Montebello Drew, late Lieut. in Her Majesty's 24th Regiment of Foot	25	July	–	100				1,217,323 acres.	196,968,979 acres.	Uncertain.	139,969 acres, inclusive of roads, which average about $\frac{1}{7}$th of lands surveyed.	
													–	Aug.	–	200								
									400	–	–	*John Ross, late Captain unattached	–	Aug.	–	60	– – –	340 0						
Hindmarsh	–		9 3 0	100 0 0	Goolwa railway.																			
Stanley	–		– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	24	Feb.	–	500 0								
Gawler													26	July	–	219 12	– – –	280 8						
Light	9,367		0 1 4	0 5 0	Police Station.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	21	–	–	–	– – –	–	†69 0					
Eyre																								
Sturt																								
Grey																								
Robe																								
Russell																								
Flinders																								
Burra																								
Frome																								
Grand Total	9,367	–	72 3 8	2,599 11 2	– –	–	–	–	600	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	1,079 12	– – –	620 8	69 0					

* John Ross, up to 29th November 1850, was Lieut. in 1st West India Regiment from November 1850 to September 1853; he was Captain unattached when he sold out, being an officer of 39½ years standing.

† This balance has been tendered in part payment of a section in the county of Light, but has not been accepted in consequence of a doubt as to the power of the agent to make use of it without special power; it is therefore held over until such authority can be received from Miss Lloyd, in whose favour the order was issued.

March 21, 1855.

(Certified correct) A. H. FREELING, Capt. R.E., Surveyor-General.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

BLUE BOOK RETURN, 1854.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

BLUE BOOK RETURN, 1854.

County.	Number of Grants not exceeding 80 Acres.		Number of Grants above 80 and not exceeding 500 Acres.		Grants exceeding 500 Acres.		
	No. of Grants.	No. of Acres.	No. of Grants.	No. of Acres.		Name of Grantee.	Extent of Grant.
		A. R. P.					
Adelaide	371	12,144 3 0	164	22,009	5	R. D. Hanson	548
						J. Baker	624
						J. A. B. Gebert	534
						A. Hardy	563
						W. Hill	582
Hindmarsh	241	10,956 0 29	91	9,216	7	E. C. Gwynne	502
						W. J. Parker	580
						R. Norman	507
						Ditto	517
						M'Kenzie and Wood	630
						E. Stephens	516
						G. Jaensch	567
Stanley	91	4,084 0 0	91	12,328	7	R. Thomas	640
						P. D. Prankerd	620
						Wm. Robinson	637
						Ditto	555
						Ditto	569
						Ditto	635
						Ditto	636
Gawler	14	1,120 0 0	5	740		Chas. Fenn	570
						J. Masters	630
						G. Morphett	640
						G. F. Angas	576
						Ditto	554
						F. W. Reiss	584
						Powell and Cullen	603
						George Morphett	640
						George Elder	630
						S. King	536
						S. A. T. Von Bertouch	540
						J. Bouch	628
Light	181	12,804 0 0	249	36,538	29	G. F. Angas	640
						R. Bosworth	615
						South Australian Co.	541
						A. Hay	611
Eyre	47	3,398 0 0	29	3,471		T. and J. Reid	638
						South Australian Co.	540
						Ditto	582
						W. Pfeiffer	626
						South Australian Co.	600
						E. Cain	615
						E. Wright	533
						C. A. H. W. Arend	578
						Prankerd and Stuckey	550
						N. Malcolm	638
						George Green	640
						W. Peacock	595
						A. Buchannan	638
Sturt	93	6,184 0 0	108	17,561	4	Smallacombe and Hay	636
						George Morphett	628
						N. Gregory & J. Downing	501
						W. Nickels	552
Grey	154	6,458 0 0	66	8,842	12	David Power	637
						Ditto	640
						Ditto	640
						Ditto	640
						Ditto	640
						Ditto	640
						Ditto	502
						Ditto	640
						Ditto	640
						J. Scott	640
						Leake Brothers	617
						Ditto	640
Robe	9	82 0 0	4	556	-	-	-
Russell	4	315 0 0	- -	- -	-	-	-
Flinders	17	1,358 0 0	8	749	-	-	-
Burra	18	1,225 0 0	35	3,496	-	-	-
Frome	- -	- - -	- -	- -	-	-	-
Not named	13	74 0 20	1	110	-	-	-
Totals	1,253	60,203 0 9	851	115,616	64		38,106

March 21, 1855.

BLUE BOOK RETURN, 1854.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Total number of Grants.	Total number of Acres granted.	Whether by Grant or Purchase.	Where sold, average price per Acre.	State total number of Acres granted in colony.	State total number of Acres sold.	State total number of Acres that remain ungranted.
	A. R. P.		£ s. d.			
540	37,004 3 0	Purchase	Auction - 2 4 $7\frac{8}{10}$ Fixed - 1 17 $9\frac{1}{10}$			
339	23,991 0 29	„	Auction - 1 16 $3\frac{1}{10}$ Fixed - 1 4 $3\frac{3}{10}$			
189	20,704 0 0	„	Auction - 1 5 $1\frac{2}{10}$ Fixed - 1 0 0			
19	1,860 0 0	„	Auction - 1 19 $1\frac{5}{10}$ Fixed - 1 0 0			
459	66,653 0 0	„	Auction - 1 17 $3\frac{7}{10}$ Fixed - 1 1 $6\frac{6}{10}$			
76	6,869 0 0	„	Auction - 1 12 $11\frac{3}{10}$ Fixed - 0 19 $10\frac{2}{10}$			
				1,217,323	1,217,323	196.968,979
205	26,062 0 0	„	Auction - 1 17 $8\frac{4}{10}$ Fixed - 1 5 $0\frac{4}{10}$			
232	22,816 0 0	„	Auction - 2 2 $11\frac{8}{10}$ Fixed - 1 6 $8\frac{6}{10}$			
13	638 0 0	„	Auction - 1 17 0 Fixed -			
4	315 0 0	„	Auction - 1 0 $6\frac{4}{10}$ Fixed - 1 0 0			
25	2,107 0 0	„	Auction - 1 8 $0\frac{8}{10}$ Fixed - 1 0 0			
53	4,721 0 0	„	Auction - 1 3 5 Fixed - 1 0 0			
- -	- - -	„	Auction - Fixed -			
14	184 0 20	„	Auction - 79 14 $8\frac{4}{10}$ Fixed - 1 7 $9\frac{8}{10}$			
2,168	213,925 0 9	„	By auction 1 18 $3\frac{8}{10}$ Fixed - 1 2 $0\frac{1}{10}$			

A. H. FREELING, Capt. R.E.,
Surveyor-General.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Encl. in No. 34.

Enclosure in No. 34.

SURVEY.—SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

GENERAL REPORT accompanying RETURNS for 1854.

Surveyor-General's Office, February 28, 1855.

Land Department.

IN the general report which accompanied the various survey returns for 1853, I had occasion to remark upon the extraordinary quantity of Crown lands sold by the department in excess of the sales of previous years; from the continued drought during the past season I anticipated an important decrease in the demand for land. I have the gratification to report, however, that during 1854 the department sold 213,925A. 0R. 9P., being an increase over the sales of 1853 of 603A. 3R. 5P., over those of 1852 of 127,252 acres, and over those of 1851 of 131,335 acres; at the same time the department laboured at a disadvantage, in having two of its surveyors engaged, by especial authority, on the banks of the river Murray, where 25,002 acres were surveyed, of which but 554 acres were sold of the 11,946 acres offered at public auction. Had these parties been employed in the more settled districts, I have little doubt the sales for the year would have been considerably augmented.

Progress of Field Work.

To meet the continued demand for the survey of lands, the field parties have been increased in number, and additional assistance obtained in the office; by these means 313,949 acres were surveyed in 1854, of which 277,487 acres were new surveys, laid out for sale in sections varying in size from the maximum of 640 acres to town allotments of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre. 8,830 acres are new roads; 26,580 acres are re-surveys of old sections; 537 acres are old roads; and 745 acres are reserves for water, stone, and other purposes.

Expenses of Field Work.

The actual cost of the above, with every expense contingent thereupon, such as the regimental and working pay, gratuity and allowance of the detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners, salaries of temporary surveyors, wages of bullock-drivers and labourers, maintenance and repair of camp equipage, surveying instruments, transport, and supplying casualties in the field, is 9,165*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, nearly three times the amount expended in 1853, and making the cost of the field work 7*d.* per acre, or $2\frac{60}{100}d.$ in excess of that of last year. That this extra cost is incurred by the additional pay given to the civil surveyors is shown by the fact, that whilst the yearly pay of ten surveyors of the detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners amounted to 1,062*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, that of the six civil surveyors amounted to 2,073*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, or nearly double, their work at the same time being little more than one-third of the total quantity surveyed during the year.

Expense of Survey Department.

The whole expense of the department for the year is 12,953*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, showing the cost of superintendence, field-work, mapping, compilation of weekly land sale lists, monthly and quarterly returns of lands sold at public auction and by private contract, the preparation of 2,425 land grants, attendance on the public for elucidation of plans and for general information concerning the survey and sale of lands, to be $9\frac{20}{100}d.$, or $\frac{98}{100}^{\text{ths}}$ of a penny in excess of the total average per acre of 1853, whilst 147,894 acres were surveyed in 1854 in excess of that surveyed during the preceding year. It affords me pleasure to be able to report so favourably the result of the field work and general expenses of the department as compared with those of previous years. It must be borne in mind, however, that the expense of the office superintendence may generally be expected to decrease as the amount of work performed in the field increases.

Hundreds and Counties.

No additional hundreds or counties have been proclaimed during the year.

New Townships.

Two new townships have been laid out, one at the north-west angle of the county of Frome, on the eastern shores of Spencer's Gulf, called the township of "Port Augusta," and one near Tod's Hill, on the north-west shores of Lake Alexandrina, called the township of "Milang," the former of which is of daily increasing importance as a place of shipment to the northern settlers.

Trigonometrical Surveys.

In consequence of the great demand for the survey of lands, the trigonometrical survey has not been extended during the year.

Survey of Roads.

About 1,200 miles of roads have been surveyed during the year, of which 1,104 are new, 68 old, and the remaining 28 miles are leading lines through unsurveyed lands. The utmost attention is being given by the department to this branch, an officer being specially engaged defining main lines through unsold lands to the various localities where traffic is likely to occur.

Visits of Inspection.

In addition to the ordinary visits to the various survey parties, I proceeded during the year to the river Murray to examine the land in that locality, and to ascertain the best sites for landing-places, fords, and townships, also with the view to take advantage of the sinuosities of the streams, and at the same time to preserve a regular character of survey.

I also proceeded to Kangaroo Island and Yorke's Peninsula, to examine the locality selected on behalf of several unexercised land orders, and, if necessary, to make reserves for the purposes of the Government.

I also examined the eastern shores of Spencer's Gulf, and selected a site for the township and port, now known as the "Township of Port Augusta," several wharf frontages of which, when offered to public competition, realized upwards of 250*l.* per acre.

The lands (referred to in my General Report for 1853) in the south-eastern districts were offered for sale at public auction in July last, when 23,000 acres realized upwards of 45,000*l.*

Sales by Public Auction and Private Contract.

There were sold in 1854, by public auction, 173,974A. 0R. 9P. at an average of 1*l.* 18*s.* $3\frac{8}{10}$*d.* per acre, or 333,327*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; by private contract, 39,951 acres at an average of 1*l.* 2*s.* $0\frac{1}{10}$*d.* per acre, or 43,975*l.* 15*s.*, making a total of 377,303*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, being the largest amount yet realized in one year from the sale of Crown lands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. FREELING,
Capt. R.E.,
Surveyor-General.

The Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c.

RETURN relative to Surveyors and Surveys

SURVEYORS.

Names of persons belonging to the survey department.	Description.	Date of Appointment.	By whom appointed.	Salaries.	Allowances.	Remarks.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Captain A. H. Freeling, R.E.	Surveyor-General - -	Feb. 20, 1849	Secretary of State -	700 0 0	91 5 0	Gratuities marked with a cross, thus *
				*240 0 0		
John MacLaren -	Deputy Surveyor-General: title altered to 1st Assistant to Surveyor-General, September 15, 1854.	Feb. 13, 1847	Lieutenant Governor to be appointed by Secretary of State.	33 6 8	4 11 0a	a On leave of absence from 1st Feb. for 18 months.
				16 13 4		
G. W. Goyder - -	Second Assistant to Surveyor-General, at 300*l.* per annum.	Sept. 13, 1854	Sir H. E. F. Young, Lieut.-Governor.	289 10 3		
				144 15 1	—	
Robert Gardiner -	Senior Surveyor and Draftsman, at 225*l.* per annum.	Feb. 11, 1854	Ditto - -	199 11 1		
				99 15 6	—	
Edward William Pitts	First-class Clerk, at 225*l.* per annum.	Sept. 13, 1854	Ditto - -	186 2 11		
				93 1 5	—	
C. M. Doswell - -	Second-class Clerk, at 160*l.* per annum.	Sept. 13, 1854	Ditto - -	102 19 5		
				51 9 8½	—	
J. M. Allen - -	Third-class Clerk, at 100*l.* per annum.	Sept. 13, 1854	Ditto - -	29 14 5		
				14 17 2½	—	
Thomas Lyons -	Temporary Clerk and Draftsman, at 150*l.* per annum.	Sept. 13, 1854	Ditto - -	44 11 8		
				22 5 10		
				2,268 14 6		
Royal Sappers and Miners.						
Sergeant Joseph Moore Private James Brooks Private James Elder - Five Non-commissioned Officers and Privates occasionally employed.	Draftsmen - - -	- - -	Master-General of the Ordnance.	317 18 3 151 18 8	91 4 9	
L.-Corporal James Partridge.	Clerk - - - -	- - -	Ditto - -	- - -		
				469 16 11	187 0 9	
Corporal Wm. Crocker L.-Corporal Richard Loveday. L.-Corporal William Dawson. L.-Corporal Florence Darling. L.-Corporal William Harris. L.-Corporal Richard Brooking. Private Wm. Farquhar Private Thomas Evans Private George Moore Private Michael O'Reilly	Surveyors - - -	- - -	Ditto - -	588 12 9 294 5 0	180 1 6	
William Pearson - Moses Pearson - - John Dickson - - John M. Painter - A. G. Ball - - Henry Ide - -	Temporary Surveyors, at salaries of 300*l.* per annum each.	- - -	Sir H. E. F. Young, Lieut.-Governor.	300 0 0 133 16 4 128 4 6 81 13 4 60 9 8 225 0 0	24 12 6 11 8 5 11 4 2 7 2 9 5 5 8 21 8 4	
				1,812 1 7	261 13 4	
Civil Labourers -	- - - -	- - -	- - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Superintending the construction of Road at Horrock's Pass	- - -	- - -	- - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Thomas F. Nott -	Temporary Surveyor, at 400*l.* per annum.	- - -	- - - -	179 14 2		
Grand Total -	- - - -	- - -	- - - -	2,461 12 8	448 4 1	- - -

February 27, 1855.

for the Year ending 31st December 1854.

SURVEYS.

State the number of labourers employed in the survey department during the past year.	State the gross amount paid to them as wages.	Fixed expenditure of the survey department.	Contingent expenditure of the same.	Total expenditure during the year.	State what amount of this expenditure was defrayed out of the revenue from land.	If defrayed from any other source state the source and amount.	State the quantity of land surveyed in the course of the past year.	State the average cost per acre of surveys during the past year.	State the quantity (if any) of land surveyed, but not by government surveyor.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		
		2,268 14 6	881 10 9	3,787 2 11						
			2,543 5 7				277,487	- -	- -	Sections surveyed.
							8,830	- -	- -	Roads ,,
							745	- -	- -	Reserves ,,
							26,350	- -	- -	Sections re-surveyed.
							537	- -	- -	Roads ,,
50 to 60	4,549 7 10	- - -	2,543 5 7	9,165 18 4			313,949	7d.		
- -	- - -	- - -	- - -	179 14 2						
- -	4,549 7 10	2,268 14 6	3,424 16 4	13,132 15 5						

A. H. Freeling, Capt. R.E., Surveyor-General.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Acts of the Legislative Council of South Australia, 1854.

No. 1.—To amend "An Act to provide for the regulation and licensing of Public Conveyances, and to prevent the wanton ill-treatment of Horses and Cattle."
[Assented to, September 14, 1854.]

No. 2.—To organize and establish a Volunteer Military Force in South Australia.
[Assented to, September 14, 1854.]

No. 3.—To repeal "An Act to provide for the Commutation of Sentences of Transportation, and to substitute Imprisonment with Hard Labour as a Punishment in lieu of Transportation, and for the employment of Prisoners sentenced to Hard Labour," and to substitute other provisions in lieu thereof. [Assented to, October 9, 1854.]

No. 4.—For the further appropriation of the Revenue for the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and for the general appropriation of the Revenue for the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five. [Assented to, November 4, 1854.]

No. 5.—To facilitate the dissolution, and provide for winding up the affairs of, Joint Stock Companies. [Assented to, November 13, 1854.]

No. 6.—To authorize the sale, or mortgage, or letting of the Estates of Persons found lunatic, and for other purposes therein mentioned. [Assented to, November 18, 1854.]

No. 7.—To promote the establishment of direct Monthly Communication with England.
[Assented to, November 18, 1854.]

No. 8.—To amend "An Ordinance to regulate Trials by Jury in South Australia."
[Assented to, November 18, 1854.]

No. 9.—To organize and establish a Militia Force in South Australia.
[Assented to, December 4, 1854.]

No. 10.—To amend the Criminal Law. [Assented to, December 4, 1854.]

No. 11.—An Act to amend the Law for the Registration of Persons entitled to vote at Elections for Members of the Legislative Council. [Assented to, December 4, 1854.]

No. 12.—To appropriate the sum of One Thousand Pounds as an addition to the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor for the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.
[Reserved, December 15, 1854.]

No. 13.—For ascertaining the number of Inhabitants of the Province of South Australia in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.
[Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 14.—To make provision against the danger of Bush and other Fires.
[Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 15.—To amend "An Act to extend and make compulsory the practice of Vaccination." [Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 16.—To amend "An Act to appoint District Councils, and to define the Powers thereof." [Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 17.—To enlarge the time within which Sheep infected with the Scab may be destroyed. [Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 18.—To authorize the formation of the Adelaide and Gawler Town Railway, and to provide for raising the money required for that purpose.
[Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 19.—To amend the Law relating to the Registration, Enrolment, and Deposit of Wills, and other Deeds and Instruments. [Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 20.—To authorize the raising a sum of One Hundred Thousand Pounds for the deepening and improvement of the Harbour of Port Adelaide, and for other the purposes therein named. [Assented to, December 16, 1854.]

No. 21.—To provide for the retirement of Officers in the Civil Service.
[Assented to, December 16, 1854.]

No. 22.—To amend an Ordinance "to establish a Ferry at Wellington, on the River Murray." [Assented to, December 16, 1854.]

No. 23.—To alter and repeal certain Laws relating to the Corporation of the City of Adelaide, and to make further and other provisions in lieu thereof, and to confer further powers on the said Corporation, and on the Council for the time being of the said City.
[Assented to, December 16, 1854.]

No . 24.—To amend the Laws of the Customs in South Australia.
[Assented to, December 16, 1854.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 35.

No. 35.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Fitzgerald to the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.

(No. 53.)

Government House, Perth, May 3, 1855.

Sir, (Received Sept. 6, 1855.)

I do myself the honour to transmit, in accordance with the prescribed regulation in that behalf, the "Blue Book" for the year 1854, accompanied by certain statistical tables, compiled in the present simple form for the first time in this colony.

2. I can with much confidence refer you to these returns as the result of information obtained in taking the general census of population with other necessary statistics in the last year, which I have reason to believe has been done with more than usual accuracy and care. The tables, numbered from 7 to 14, give a consecutive comparison of the state and condition of this colony for the last six years, in every element of its progress or otherwise, commencing with that of 1848, the year when I assumed the administration of the government of this province.

3. I have much pleasure in drawing your attention to the satisfactory showing of this comparison, from which it appears that population has considerably more than doubled itself in the six years, notwithstanding the large numbers who have emigrated to the neighbouring colonies, attracted by the allurements of the gold fields.

4. The amount of land brought into cultivation, and the consequent increased production of cereal with other crops thrown into the market, show nearly double that in the period under comparison.

5. Stock, notwithstanding the very much greater consumption from the increase of population, has, with the exception of sheep, nearly doubled, thus proving the groundlessness of the alarm that at one time generally prevailed of the incapability of the colony to meet the increased demand that must follow the introduction of convicts, pensioners with their families, and free emigration, consequent on Western Australia being made a penal settlement.

6. The revenue, notwithstanding this encouraging progress in every branch, did not exceed that of the year 1853 by more than 5,000*l.*, being only 34,161*l.* in comparison with 29,166*l.* This small increase, so much below anticipation, I attribute firstly to the very deficient harvest of the previous year, 1853, calling for the withdrawal from the colony of a very large amount of capital for the purchase and introduction of large supplies of breadstuffs to meet the wants of the community. Secondly, to the introduction in the year under consideration of a very liberal tariff as regards the amount of goods admitted free, while the other portion of the same, establishing differential duties, which was fully expected to more than realize the loss sustained by the large admission of free goods, can be scarcely said to have come into fair operation, as the commercial body, aware of the change of tariff contemplated by the Government, availed of the opportunity of taking out of bond under the old law, at an ad valorem duty of 5 per cent., such goods as they knew would under the new law be charged with differential duties, their gain became consequently proportionate to the loss sustained by the revenue.

7. The shipping inwards, as a matter of course, has increased largely, from the large imports previously alluded to, as also from the increased export, as compared with the previous years; and here, though reporting on the year 1854, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of stating that the export in the present year of timber alone to the other colonies, promises to exceed in amount the aggregate of all combined in any previous year.

8. But the most gratifying result of all is the general disposition to invest capital in the purchase of land, which has been done in the last year to a greater extent than before known since the occupation of the territory. This result is beyond question the soundest test of the confidence entertained by the majority

of the community in the progress and stability of the colony; and the more valuable, as on the first discovery of gold at Melbourne, the prediction gained considerable ground that Western Australia would ere long be left to merely a band of officials.

9. The ordinances passed in the last year, nineteen in number, many of them of a very important character, have been fully explained in my Despatch No. 108, of September 18, 1854.

Taxation.

10. The changes effected in this branch of colonial policy in the last year has in like manner been submitted in the same Despatch, while explaining the changes contemplated by the new tariff.

11. In minerals little has been done, notwithstanding the valuable mineral wealth beyond a doubt existing in the Victoria District. The want of capital to continue the working of the Geraldine mine is much to be deplored, especially looking at the high price realized for the last 50 tons, of 34*l.* per ton, lately exported. I can have little doubt, with different management and enlarged capital, the district would prove a source of unbounded wealth to all engaged in exports, which it will yet do beyond doubt.

Public Works.

12. I am able to report the Government have not been idle during the past year. The new colonial hospital is now nearly ready for occupation. Small gaols are in progress in all the rural districts, while a large one capable of holding more than 100 persons is also progressing in Perth. Churches, I am glad to say, as well as glebe houses, are making their appearance in the rural districts.

Education.

13. I am happy to say education has had the deepest consideration, with a view to the establishment of a higher course of education than existed formerly. Much credit is due to the colonial secretary as chairman to the Education Board, for his exertions in maturing the scheme. It must, however, be admitted there are many, both in and out of the council, that think the course of education much too high for the classes that usually attend government schools; more particularly in the Australian colonies, where they are not permitted to remain at school beyond the age of 14 or 15 at the utmost before being called upon to follow some occupation. The sum appropriated for this service has also been thought excessive, looking at the limited resources of the colony. I am bound to declare my concurrence in the present scheme as a matter of experiment, which if it fail is easy of discontinuance. I do myself the honour to transmit the last report of the board.

14. Writing from a penal settlement in which my administration is about to close, it will naturally be expected I should not conclude these observations without touching upon its social state, as regards the security of life and property, and the extent to which all classes submit themselves to the observance of order and obedience to law.

15. There are now some 3,000 convicts scattered throughout the community of this colony, and such is the peaceful reality prevailing, accompanied by the full exercise of the social obligations of civilized life, that a stranger travelling through the colony would never feel himself in a penal settlement other than by the mere circumstance of meeting parties peaceably engaged in repairing roads, or executing public works of utility, and I may affirm that life and property is felt to be equally as secure here as in any other portion of the British empire, from the general obedience to the law. Crime will occur in all countries, but I feel bound to declare in justice both to the magistracy and police of this colony, that its commission here is almost invariably followed by detection and punishment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES FITZGERALD.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 35.

STATISTICS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Registrar General's Office,
Perth, December 16, 1854.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the statistical returns, compiled from the census taken by direction of his Excellency the Governor on the 30th September last.

For various reasons I have been unable to put his Excellency in possession of these returns until the present time; but the principal causes of delay are attributable to the novel forms adopted, the new mode used for the distribution and collection of the individual returns, and the numerical increase of population which has taken place since the census of 1848.

An undertaking of this nature, to be performed in an accurate manner, is at all times, and in all countries one of great difficulty, from the unwillingness of individuals to furnish information relative to their private affairs, which many in ignorance attribute to mere inquisitiveness on the part of those appointed to collect such information, forgetting that it is impossible for a Government to legislate on many matters, affecting the weal of the whole community, unless they have certain statistical data to guide their deliberations. If these difficulties, then, exist in countries where the machinery employed is elaborate, and no consideration of expense is allowed to interfere, his Excellency will not be surprised when I state that such difficulties are increased tenfold in a colony like Western Australia, where a limited population is scattered over an extent of country, (equalling in area the whole of England and Wales) and where the only means of collecting information has been, in this instance, through the medium of the police, who, notwithstanding every desire to perform the service efficiently, were unable, in consequence of other duties clashing with that of which I now treat, to ensure in many respects that accuracy so desirable in returns of this nature.

Owing to all these causes, it will not be a matter of astonishment that the present census does not give such exact information as could be wished; but, notwithstanding the many circumstances which have militated against this desideratum, I have every reason to believe that a very close approximation to the actual condition of the colony has been arrived at, and much valuable information gleaned. In any succeeding census which the Governor may think proper to order, I hope, with the experience already gained, to submit to his Excellency such a plan for its collection as will ensure the greatest exactitude on all points worthy of note.

The 1st table to which I shall draw his Excellency's attention is the return of the whole population compared with that of 1848, showing an increase, in the gross, over that year of 7,354, or 159·11 per cent. The primary cause of this addition to our numbers is the conversion of the colony into a penal settlement; but, apart from the immigration consequent on this change, the addition to the free population is in itself considerable, and gives an actual increase over that of 1848 of 3,154, or 70·71 per cent.

The 2d table merely exhibits the comparative increase during the period above alluded to.

Return No. 3 shows the distribution of the population throughout the different districts of the colony.

No. 4 is a synopsis of such population classifying the sexes.

No. 5 furnishes a summary of the whole, classified according to age, condition, religion, and occupation; and also embracing the cereal and other productions of the colony, the number of stock, and the quantity of land under fallow.

In this return the only point on which I shall remark is, the increased number of acres in cultivation over the past year, with reference to its probable supplies of food.

The crop of wheat this year is returned at 5,969½ acres. As the growth of the staple article of food is one of great importance, and on the adequate or inadequate production of which the prosperity of a colony situated like ours must mainly depend, I hope I shall not be deemed prolix in entering into a rough calculation as to our means for supplying from this year's harvest the quantity of flour necessary for the consumption of the ensuing year.

Assuming then, as the basis of this calculation, that 8 bushels of wheat are required for every man, woman, and child in the colony, we find that 95,808 bushels are necessary for the support of our present population. Supposing, however, that such population increases next year in the same ratio as it has since 1853, a further number will require to be provided for amounting to 2,642; or taking the mean of such increase, an additional supply of 10,568 bushels of wheat will be required for their support.

The quantity of land under wheat, at an average of 15 bushels to the acre, will yield in round numbers 89,950 bushels; but from this must be deducted the supply of seed for the next year's sowing, when I have assumed the number of acres ready for cultivation (taking into account the land under fallow) at 7,000, which, at two bushels per acre, will require 14,000 bushels for seed alone, this leaves a balance of 75,550 available for consumption, or 20,258 less than is required for our present population, and 30,826 bushels or 592½ tons of flour less than is calculated to meet our requirements during 1855.

Notwithstanding this deficiency, it must be a source of gratification to his Excellency to perceive the advance that has been made in agricultural operations during the last few

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

years. This is to be attributed to the certainty now existing of a ready sale for all agricultural products, whereas formerly, although a nominal value attached to them, no market, or at least a very limited one, was open for their disposal. Such an incentive to increased exertions has had a beneficial result in all parts of the colony, as a reference to table No. 10, exhibiting the progressive increase in the growth of all kinds of grain, hay, &c., since 1848, will fully prove.

Although I have no means of drawing a comparison between the productions of the vineyards for the present, with that of any preceding year, yet the return given of the number of gallons of wine made, and the quantity of fruit dried, is gratifying, as exhibiting the adaptability of our climate for Mediterranean products, and the saving to the colony by home production instead of importation.

All kinds of stock, with the exception of goats and swine, have been considerably augmented of late, and the increase shown in the return of sheep and cattle tends to a belief that, notwithstanding the additional consumers we have had thrown into the colony, no fears need be entertained of any deficiency occuring in the supply of animal food. This belief is strengthened and confirmed by the recent reduction in the price of meat.

The number of acres under fallow shows that more extended agricultural operations are contemplated next year; and the satisfactory results from this system of farming will no doubt lead to the clearing and fallowing of larger tracts, and in the course of a few years, I trust, enable Western Australia to add to her exports those of flour and grain.

The 6th table shows the centesimal proportions of the various subdivisions of the population with reference to the whole, and to this return I would most earnestly call the notice of the Governor, as exhibiting many startling and interesting facts, which are worthy attention from the Executive Government of this colony. The first and most important is the disproportion of the sexes. It will be perceived by reference to the return in question that there are 7,973 males and only 4,003 females, giving an excess of the former over the latter of 3,970.

It is unnecessary for me to point out the moral evils likely to ensue from this inequality; or to do more than allude to the crimes to which such disparity is likely to give rise; but, as a means of averting the probability even of any such occurrences in this colony, I would respectfully suggest, that free female immigration should be encouraged to a greater extent than hitherto, in order to adjust the balance between the two sexes.

A singular result appears with regard to the population under 12 years of age; by reference to the return it will be seen that the centesimal proportion of both sexes of this age, as compared with the whole population of the colony, is 23·19, or rather less than one fourth of our present population is composed of children, proving the comparative exemption of the colony from infantine diseases of a serious nature.

The disproportion between the sexes exists in the ages from 21 upwards, and this is beyond doubt attributable to the introduction of convicts, and from the number of adult male immigrants having been in excess of females, as in the return of those under 12, most of whom have, in all probability, been born in the colony, the disparity is reversed, and we have an excess of females over males amounting to 158.

The small number of conditionally pardoned men returned will doubtless create surprise, but taking into account the numerous departures of this class by almost every vessel, I have reason to believe the return is correct.

In the division "Married," an apparent discrepancy will be perceived, as the return gives an excess of 150 married males over married females. I can only account for this by supposing that the difference arises from numbers of ticket-of-leave men being married in England, but whose wives have not joined them in this colony.

The proportions of the various religious denominations, as compared with the whole population, have been calculated with much care; but, from the vague manner in which many of these returns were made there is reason to believe that the Wesleyan and Independent Dissenters have been returned short of their actual numbers. As, however, I could only be guided by the information before me, any inconvenience which may be sustained from such inaccuracy must be entirely attributable to the indifference or negligence of the members of those communions, in not distinctly recording their religious tenets. The number of Roman Catholics returned is correct.

I need not advert to the occupation column, as it speaks for itself; great difficulties are experienced in acquiring the information necessary for its compilation, and too much reliance must not be placed in the classification.

Nos. 7, 8, and 9 are returns of the births, marriages, and deaths, as registered since 1848.

It must be borne in mind in perusing these returns that the number of birth, marriages, and deaths for 1854 is calculated for the nine months ending 30th September last. The per-centage of births, as compared with the population, irrespective of ticket-of-leave holders on public works and prisoners, is 2·75. The per-centage of deaths for the same period is only 0·55, and affords satisfactory proof of the healthiness of climate the colony enjoys.

The remaining tables from No. 10 to 21 inclusive require no remarks from me; they all contribute to the fund of statistical information I have endeavoured to collect, and

exhibit beyond question a progressive improvement in all matters affecting the interest of the colony.

The undertaking has been one of a novel character to me, and I trust the result will be gratifying to his Excellency, whom I beg to congratulate on the improved state of Western Australia since the time of his assuming the reins of Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

RETURNS.

No. 1.

RETURN of POPULATION ascertained by the Census of 30th September 1854, as compared with the result of that of 1848.

Population on 10th October 1848 - - - -	4,622
Deduct military - - - - -	162
Total free population irrespective of imlitary	4,460
Free population on 30th September 1854, irrespective of the military and aborigines in private service - - - -	7,614
Showing an increase in 6 years of	3,154
or 70·71 per cent.	
Population on 10th October 1848, including all classes - -	4,622
Population on 30th September 1854, including all classes, bond as well as free - - - - - - - -	11,976
Being an increase in the total population of	7,354
or 159·11 per cent.	

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 2.

COMPARATIVE ABSTRACT of the Returns of Population for the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
1848 - - -	2,818	1,804	4,622
1849 - - -	2,685	1,960	4,645
1850 - - -	3,491	2,395	5,886
1851 - - -	4,062	2,599	6,661
1852 - - -	5,645	3,066	8,711
1853 - - -	5,727	3,607	9,334
1854 - - -	7,937	4,071	12,008

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 3.

DISTRIBUTIVE RETURN of the Population of Western Australia on the 30th September 1854.

	Free.		Conditional-pardon Men.	Ticket-of-leave Holders.		Prisoners.		Total Males.	Total Females, including wives and daughters of Military.	Total Aborigines employed by white population.	Total Population.
	Civilians.	Military, including their male children.		In private employ.	On Public Works.	In Convict Establishments.	In Colonial Gaols.				
Perth and its suburbs	1,043	118	69	211	110	—	42	1,593	1,140	22	2,755
Fremantle „	698	284	35	162	97	495	13	1,784	975	14	2,773
Swan - - -	442	7	40	74	254	—	—	817	408	14	1,239
York - - -	499	21	47	170	88	—	5	830	371	38	1,239
Toodyay - - -	379	21	37	203	125	—	33	798	250	21	1,069
Murray - -	146	—	6	9	—	—	—	161	100	15	276
Wellington - -	331	11	27	152	101	—	2	624	283	36	943
Sussex - -	145	—	19	35	—	—	10	209	98	31	338
Plantagenet - -	290	34	62	158	128	—	11	683	266	28	977
Victoria - -	103	31	34	91	21	—	—	280	73	14	367
Totals - -	4,076	527	376	1,265	924	495	116	7,779	3,964	233	11,976

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 4.

Synopsis of the Population of Western Australia on the 30th September 1854.

	MALES.																FEMALES.						
	Free.						Conditional Pardon.					Ticket-of-Leave Holders.											
	Married.		Single.			Total Free.	Married.		Single.		Total C. P. Men.	Married.		Single.		Total Ticket-of-Leave Men.	Total Males.	Married.		Single.			Total Females.	Total Population.
	Under 21.	21 and upwards.	Under 21.	Between 12 & 21.	21 and upwards.		Under 21.	21 and upwards.	Under 21.	21 and upwards.		Under 21.	21 and upwards.	Under 21.	21 and upwards.			Under 21.	21 and upwards.	Under 12.	Between 12 & 21.	21 and upwards.		
Perth and its suburbs	—	301	373	157	212	1,043	—	22	6	41	69	—	25	—	186	211	1,323	30	349	359	187	159	1,084	2,407
Fremantle	—	221	228	99	150	698	—	15	—	20	35	1	44	—	117	162	895	19	259	266	121	33	698	1,593
Swan	2	134	10	135	161	442	—	14	—	26	40	1	12	2	59	74	556	87	82	145	67	26	405	961
York	4	131	126	128	110	499	5	21	5	16	47	1	35	7	127	170	716	29	95	129	90	9	352	1,068
Toodyay	1	90	106	48	134	379	—	2	—	35	37	—	31	3	169	203	619	13	81	94	31	15	234	853
Murray	1	40	43	32	30	146	—	—	—	6	6	—	4	—	5	9	161	6	35	42	11	6	100	261
Wellington	1	106	121	48	55	331	—	9	2	16	27	—	18	2	132	152	510	20	98	113	31	14	276	786
Sussex	—	42	42	16	45	145	—	2	1	16	19	—	1	3	31	35	199	8	30	32	23	5	98	297
Plantagenet	—	95	76	49	70	290	—	12	4	46	62	5	28	3	122	158	510	11	89	95	34	9	238	748
Victoria	—	29	23	16	35	103	—	2	1	31	34	—	9	—	82	91	228	3	23	19	3	5	53	281
Total	9	1,189	1,148	728	1,002	4,076	5	99	19	253	376	8	207	20	1,030	1,265	5,717	226	1,141	1,294	596	281	3,538	9,255
Add the military, their wives and families		238	162	25	102	527	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	527	—	238	174	14	—	426	953
Ticket-of leave men on public works	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	924	924	924	—	—	—	—	—	—	924
Prisoners in convict establishment and colonial gaols	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	610	—	—	—	—	1	1	611
Aborigines in the employ of white population	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	195	—	—	—	—	—	38	233
Grand Total	9	1,427	1,310	753	1,104	4,603	5	99	19	253	376	8	207	20	1,954	2,189	7,973	226	1,379	1,468	610	282	4,003	11,976

Charles Sholl, Registrar General.

No. 5.

Showing the Population, Crop, and Stock in the various Districts of the Colony of Western Australia on the 30th September 1854.

Towns and Districts.	Population.																				Religion.											
	Free.										Holders of Conditional Pardons.				Holders of Ticket of Leave.				Aborigines in Service.			Free.						Bond.					
	Males.					Females.					Males.				Males.																	
	Married.		Single.			Married.		Single.			Married.		Single.		Married.		Single.															
	Under 21 years of age.	21 years and upwards.	Under 12 years.	Above 12 and under 21.	21 years and upwards.	Under 21 years.	21 years and upwards.	Under 12 years.	Above 12 and under 21.	21 years and upwards.	Under 21 years.	Above 21 years.	Under 21 years.	Above 21 years.	Under 21 years.	Above 21 years.	Under 21 years.	Above 21 years	Males.	Females.	Total Population.	Church of England.	Wesleyan Methodists.	Independents.	Other Protestant Dissenters.	Church of Rome.	Jews, Mahomedans, & others not specified.	Church of England.	Wesleyan Methodists.	Independents.	Other Protestant Dissenters.	Church of Rome.	Jews, Mahomedans, & others not specified
Perth and its suburbs -	—	301	373	157	212	80	349	359	187	159	—	22	6	41	—	25	—	186	15	7	2,429	1,225	317	81	139	410	46	131	25	—	10	45	—
Fremantle - -	—	221	228	99	150	19	259	266	121	33	—	15	—	20	1	44	—	117	12	2	1,607	966	52	82	105	238	32	106	—	3	3	20	—
Swan - - -	2	134	10	135	161	87	82	145	65	26	—	14	—	26	1	12	2	59	12	2	975	680	47	18	52	78	6	51	3	11	11	18	—
York - - -	4	131	126	128	110	29	95	129	90	9	5	21	5	16	1	35	7	127	36	2	1,106	676	83	—	11	81	38	110	5	—	5	54	43
Toodyay - - -	1	90	106	48	134	13	81	94	31	15	—	2	—	35	—	31	3	169	14	7	874	423	12	—	24	152	39	113	—	—	—	111	—
Murray - -	1	40	43	32	30	6	35	42	11	6	—	—	—	6	—	4	—	5	15	—	276	203	18	7	4	11	15	14	—	—	—	4	—
Wellington - -	1	106	121	48	55	20	98	113	31	14	—	9	2	16	—	18	2	132	33	3	822	375	10	27	36	187	47	70	2	—	6	62	—
Sussex - - -	—	42	42	16	45	8	30	32	23	5	—	2	1	16	—	1	3	31	24	7	328	221	5	—	5	20	41	30	—	—	—	6	—
Plantagenet - -	—	95	76	49	70	11	89	95	34	9	—	12	4	46	5	28	3	122	20	8	776	355	—	7	49	97	44	114	—	1	7	99	3
Victoria - -	—	29	23	16	35	3	23	19	3	5	—	2	1	31	—	9	—	82	14	—	295	92	8	—	7	50	15	111	—	—	—	12	—
Total - -	9	1,189	1,148	728	1,002	226	1,141	1,294	596	281	5	99	19	253	8	207	20	1,030	195	38	9,488	5,216	552	222	432	1,324	323	850	35	15	42	431	46
Add the military, their wives and families -	—	238	162	25	102	—	238	174	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	953	590	2	61	21	279	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ticket-of-leave men on public works - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	924	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	924
Prisoners in Convict Establishment and colonial gaols	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	611	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	611
Grand Totals - -	9	1,427	1,310	753	1,104	226	1,379	1,468	610	281	5	99	19	253	8	207	20	1,030	195	38	11,976	5,806	554	283	453	1,603	323	850	35	15	42	431	1,581

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No. 5.—*continued.*

Showing the Population, Crop, and Stock in the various Districts of the Colony of Western Australia on the 30th September 1854.

Towns and Districts.	Occupation.																Crop.													Stock.					Fallow Land.
	Agriculture.			Grazing.		Trade.						Other Classes.					Residue.										Produce of Vineyards last Vintage.		Description of Stock.					
	Occupiers employing Labourers.	Ditto not employing Labourers.	Agricultural Labourers.	In care of sheep.	In care of cattle.	Storekeepers and other Retail Dealers, and their Assistants.	Bricklayers and Masons.	Smiths.	Carpenters and Joiners.	Painters and Glaziers.	Tailors and Shoemakers.	Capitalist, Bankers, Professional Men, their Clerks and Assistants.	Civil Officers, their Clerks & Assistants.	Labourers employed as Boatmen, Mariners, and others not Agricultural.	Domestic Servants (Male).	All other Males above 14 years, not included in the foregoing.	Women and Children for the most part dependent on the foregoing.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Maize.	Beans and other Pulse.	Potatoes.	Vineyard.	Garden.	Hay and Green Crops.	Total in Cultivation.	Gallons of Wine.	Dried Fruit in lbs.	Horses.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Goats.	Pigs.	Total Number of Acres.
																		Acres.	Acres.	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres.	Acres.							
Perth and its suburbs	36	20	45	4	8	53	26	21	68	9	49	18	68	331	15	70	1,588	59¼	31½	5¼	14⅜	5½	5⅜	35¾	31	104½	57⅜	350¼	3038	3237	215	1,027	711	315	392	32
Fremantle ditto	4	10	25	1	3	16	40	10	34	2	12	16	13	169	18	265	969	40	36⅜	8	3½	1	1	8½	4½	20½	92½	216¼	—	—	85	771	447	208	107	2½
Swan	46	26	112	12	17	8	6	8	15	2	18	13	8	25	18	34	607	1310	114	155¼	789⅜	21¾	3	31½	54⅓	66	935	3481	3546	2790	633	10,784	4106	270	612	337
York	71	34	106	100	38	4	2	2	5	—	1	4	6	175	10	148	400	1574	514½	96½	41½	—	—	3	20⅜	32¼	550½	2833	160	—	864	67,858	1128	18	1298	444
Toodyay	42	16	213	43	30	4	12	12	19	2	13	4	7	58	26	33	340	1496¼	323¼	13⅜	6⅜	¼	½	3¾	9¾	28	320	2202¼	27	157	1036	49,728	3513	40	888	333¼
Murray	21	23	47	1	20	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	5	6	13	136	341⅜	70½	47	—	1	1½	13	7¼	15⅜	148½	645½	552	673	279	1,210	1863	13	228	79½
Wellington	31	25	96	8	15	4	8	10	14	1	9	2	13	4	16	137	429	779	249⅜	9½	7	2½	3¼	65½	22¼	46	205½	1390½	1342	903	316	4,009	3721	101	249	191¼
Sussex	17	15	41	2	4	1	6	4	6	—	3	3	—	11	7	51	157	118	103	—	50	5	—	38	3	4	25	346	—	—	432	540	2258	—	70	96
Plantagenet	24	73	136	28	4	9	10	5	11	1	11	22	23	52	4	112	251	109¾	60¾	6½	10	2	1	17½	2	25¼	55½	290	—	300	439	19,686	578	4	185	64¾
Victoria	17	—	23	15	11	—	6	4	3	—	2	3	30	1	25	75	80	141½	82	23	—	2¾	—	5¼	1¼	9	32	296¾	—	—	200	17,955	2111	11	46	83
Add the military, their wives and families	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ticket-of-leave men on public works	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prisoners in Convict Establishment and colonial gaols	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Totals	309	242	844	214	150	99	117	76	176	17	118	86	169	831	145	938	4957	5969½	1585½	364½	923¼	41½	15¾	221¾	156½	351	2422¼	12051½	8665	8054	4499	178568	20436	980	4078	1663¼

CHARLES SHOLL, Registrar General.

No. 6.

CENTESIMAL TABLE of the POPULATION of WESTERN AUSTRALIA (comprising Free, Military, Aborigines in private employ, and Bond,) on the 30th September 1854.

A. shows the description and number of which the Centesimal Numbers are the per-centage.

—	SEXES.		AGES.									CONDITION.					MARRIED.							
	Whole Population.		Males.	Females.	Whole Population.	Males.	Females.	Whole Population.	Males.	Females.	Whole Population.	Whole Population.				Male Population above 12.	Free Population above 12.	Conditional-Pardon Population.	Ticket-of-Leave Population.	Males above 12.	Females above 12.	Married Men.	Married Females.	Whole Population.
A	11,976		7,973	4,003	11,976	7,973	4,003	11,976	7,973	4,003	11,976	11,976				6,663	6,023	376	2,189	6,663	2,584	1,755	1,605	11,976
	Males.	Females.	Under 12.	Under 12.	Under 12.	Between 12 and 21.	Between 12 and 21.	Between 12 and 21.	21 years and upwards.	21 years and upwards.	21 years and upwards.	Free.	Conditional-Pardon Men.	Ticket-of-Leave Holders	Prisoners.	Conditional-Pardon and Ticket-of-Leave Holders and Prisoners.	Free.	Conditional Pardon.	Holders of Tickets of Leave.	Males.	Females.	Under 21.	Under 21.	Married.
	7,973	4,003	1,310	1,468	2,778	814	836	1,650	5,849	1,699	7,548	8,800	376	2,189	611	3,176	3,041	104	215	1,755	1,605	22	226	3,360
Centesimal Proportion - - -	66·57	33·42	16·43	36·67	23·19	10·20	20·88	13·77	73·36	42·44	63·02	73·48	3·13	18·27	5·10	47·66	50·48	27·65	9·82	26·33	63·33	1·25	14·08	28·05

RELIGION.							OCCUPATION.							
Whole Population. 11,976.							Whole Population. 11,976.							
Church of England.	Wesleyans.	Independents.	Other Protestant Disenters.	Church of Rome.	Jews, Mahomedans, and other Religions not specified.	Total Protestants.	Agricultural and Grazing.	Commerce.	Mechanics, Handicraft Artizans.	Civil Service.	Military.	Labourers not Agricultural and Male Servants.	Other Males above 14 not hereinbefore specified.	Residue.
6,656	589	298	495	2,034	1,904	8,038	1,759	185	504	169	400	976	2,473	5,510
55·57	4·91	2·48	4·13	16·98	15·89	67·11	14·68	1·54	4·20	1·41	3·34	8·14	20·64	46·00

CHARLES SHOLL, Registrar General.

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No. 7.

RETURN of BIRTHS registered in the Colony of Western Australia during the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTALS.
1848	59	127	186
1849	85	77	162
1850	99	87	186
1851	117	103	220
1852	159	100	259
1853	148	109	257
1854	188	189	377

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 8.

RETURN of MARRIAGES registered in the Colony of Western Australia during the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	NUMBER.
1848	28
1849	51
1850	37
1851	57
1852	66
1853	122
1854	153

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 9.

RETURN of the Number of DEATHS registered in the Colony of Western Australia during the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	MALES.							FEMALES.							GRAND TOTAL.
	Under 3 years.	3 and under 10.	10 and under 20.	20 and under 30.	30 and under 60.	60 and upwards.	Total.	Under 3 years.	3 and under 10.	10 and under 20.	20 and under 30.	30 and under 60.	60 and upwards.	Total.	
1848	10	5	–	10	9	7	41	18	2	–	1	5	1	27	68
1849	6	–	4	1	6	2	19	5	3	–	1	–	1	10	29
1850	11	–	2	4	12	2	31	9	1	1	2	7	3	23	54
1851	11	2	2	2	6	2	25	9	1	–	–	1	1	12	37
1852	14	1	4	5	14	3	41	11	1	3	2	6	1	24	65
*1853	–	–	–	–	–	–	46	–	–	–	–	–	–	46	92
1854	71	1	–	7	21	5	51	9	–	2	3	4	1	19	70

* No accurate returns made.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 10.

COMPARATIVE ABSTRACT of the Crops for the Years 1848 to 1854 inclusive.

CROPS.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	A res.	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat	3,316¾	3,455¾	4,416	4,089	4,304¼	5,052¾	5,969½
Barley	672	671	637	610	805	1,993¾	1,585½
Oats	133¾	152	140½	77¾	129	200	364½
Rye	100¼	76	139¼	117½	110	150¾	923¼
Maize	38¾	38	36	17¼	14	22¼	41½
Beans and other pulse	No return.	No return.	37½	6	8¼	7	15¾
Potatoes	120¼	103¼	138	117	133	159½	221¾
*{ Vineyard	114	156	215	233½	233	246½	156½
*{ Garden	224	222½	84	159¼	180½	196¼	351
Hay and green crops	2,320¾	2,021¼	1,567	1,872	1,717	2,270½	2,422¼
Totals	7,040½	6,896	7,410¼	7,299¼	7,634	10,299	12,051½

* In the return under the head of "Vineyard" for 1854 a great reduction will be found over that of 1853, while a corresponding increase is apparent in "Garden." I have reason to believe that this arises from individuals confounding the two and returning them indiscriminately, no diminution in the cultivation of the vine having taken place.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 11.

COMPARATIVE ABSTRACT of the Returns of Stock for the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

STOCK.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
Horses	2,095	2,359	2,635	2,978	3,330	3,986	4,499
*Sheep	141,123	144,000	128,111	141,413	155,132	157,968	173,568
Cattle	10,919	11,938	13,074	15,315	15,647	20,265	20,436
Goats	1,431	No return.	No return.	596	634	1,013	980
Pigs	2,287	3,185	3,190	No return.	3,250	4,151	4,073

* In consequence of the depressed state of the colony in the year 1850 prior to the arrival of convicts, many of the farmers did not increase their flocks, and numbers of sheep were boiled down for tallow.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 12.

RETURN of LANDS granted, sold, and under Lease in the Colony of Western Australia, during the years 1848–54 inclusive, showing the Revenue derivable from the two latter sources.

YEAR.	No. of Acres granted without Purchase.	No. of Acres sold.	Amount realized by Land Sales.	Lands under Lease and Licence.	Amounts realized by Leases and Licences.
			£ s. d.	Acres.	
1848	2,560	6,366	6,366 0 0		
1849	Nil.	854¼	854 5 0		
1850	2,198½	306	323 13 0		
1851	117½	1,215	1,329 10 0		
1852	Nil.	2,169¼	2,197 12 9	2,356,239	2,054 14 6
1853	Nil.	1,617	1,711 0 8	2,649,729	2,299 13 9
*1854	Nil.	2,142	1,911 17 0	3,080,668½	2,984 2 0

* This return applies only to country lands, and does not include town or suburban allotments.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 13.

RETURN showing the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the Year 1848-54 inclusive. Also the Imperial Expenditure (exclusive of Parliamentary Grant) for the Years 1848-54 inclusive.

YEAR.	Colonial Revenue.	Grants in Aid.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenditure.	Imperial Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1848 - -	10,492 13 11	7,695 9 10	18,188 3 9	18,419 8 11	
1849 -	9,596 12 9	7,743 14 11	17,340 7 8	17,150 17 6	
1850 - -	12,440 6 6	6,697 7 8	19,137 14 2	16,656 16 1	22,153 2 10
1851 -	18,169 1 3	7,032 7 5	25,201 8 8	23,926 7 1	49,486 14 8
1852 - -	29,533 2 3	7,488 12 10	37,021 15 1	34,777 9 3	85,515 0 0
1853 -	29,083 18 7	8,269 7 5	37,353 6 0	38,052 15 9	97,516 17 5
1854 - -	34,161 13 8	11,613 16 9	45,775 10 5	45,171 7 8	132,597 3 0

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 14.

COMPARATIVE ABSTRACT of the Returns of Imports and Exports for the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEARS.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
	£	£
1848 - - -	45,411	29,598
1849 - -	28,534	26,156
1850 - - -	52,351	22,135
1851 - -	56,598	26,870
*1852 - - -	97,304	24,181
*1853 - -	126,735	31,645
1854 - -	128,259	36,245

* Consequent on the introduction of convicts, importations to a larger amount than in any of the former years became necessary.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 15.

RETURN of Imports from 1st January to 31st March 1854.

ARTICLES IMPORTED.		VALUE ON WHICH DUTY HAS BEEN PAID.											
		COUNTRY IMPORTED FROM.											
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.			British Colonies.			United States.			Foreign States.			Total.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Apparel and slops		2,928	11	6	124	7	0	2	8	0				3,055	6	6
Apothecary wares		340	1	0	1	14	0							341	15	0
Bran and pollard					48	0	0							48	0	0
Bags and sacks		117	3	0										117	3	0
Bricks		22	16	0										22	16	0
Brooms and brushes		73	10	0	2	8	0							75	18	0
Butter and cheese		1,182	16	2	10	16	0							1,193	12	2
Beer, ale, and cider, draught	27,350 galls.	2,249	15	0	372	0	0							2,621	15	0
Ditto ditto bottled	14,718 „	2,116	13	6	282	0	0							2,398	13	6
Boots and shoes		1,084	6	10	82	9	0							1,166	15	10
Books and stationery		295	4	0										295	4	0
Beef, pork, bacon, and hams		1,489	6	4	527	18	0							2,017	4	4
Canvas and twine		160	1	0	29	2	0	3	12	0				192	15	0
Carts, carriages, and wheelwrights work		215	19	0										215	19	0
Cordage		397	16	0	8	14	0							406	10	0
Coffee	1,996 lbs.				84	16	6							84	16	6
Cabinet and upholstery wares		757	12	0	257	13	0							1,015	5	0
Deals, boards, timber, and spars		431	10	7										431	10	7
Drapery and haberdashery		8,361	6	0	907	1	7	100	16	0				9,369	3	7
Earthenware and glass		509	6	2	68	5	7	7	16	0				585	7	9
Fruits, dried		559	0	10	88	3	0							647	3	10
Flour and biscuit		226	2	10	1,263	7	0	30	0	0				1,519	9	10
Grain: wheat																
Ditto, other		145	1	7	161	8	0							306	9	7
Hardware and cutlery		293	5	7	146	12	2							439	17	9
Hats and bonnets		511	6	0	26	2	0							537	8	0
Hay																
Hops		250	4	0										250	4	0
Horses																
Iron in bar and hooping		16	13	0										16	13	0
Ironmongery		1,643	1	10	127	7	6							1,770	9	4
Leather		240	0	0	352	17	0							592	17	0
Lead		159	12	0										159	12	0
Mats and baskets		22	19	6	49	4	0							72	3	6
Oilman's stores		2,090	15	8	402	9	0							2,493	4	8
Oils: colours, painter's wares		95	16	0	4	16	0							100	12	0
Potatoes																
Powder and shot		99	5	0										99	5	0
Rice					218	2	0							218	2	0
Sugar, moist					783	0	0							783	0	0
Ditto, refined	8,720 lbs.	207	13	7										207	13	7
Soap and candles		928	16	8	443	2	7							1,371	19	3
Saddlery and harness		756	11	0	32	7	4							788	18	4
Tea	3,027 lbs.	129	12	0	123	7	6							252	19	6
Tools and implements		141	19	2										141	19	2
Wood goods		12	18	0										12	18	0
All other articles		1,090	19	6	230	6	10	10	16	0				1,338	2	4
		32,361	7	10	7,259	16	7	155	8	0				39,776	12	5
Spirits :—																
Arrack																
Brandy 5,009		1,486	2	0	257	15	0				34	6	0	1,778	3	0
Geneva 448		29	14	0	37	10	0							67	4	0
Gin 1,068	9,347 galls.	205	16	0	7	16	0							213	12	0
Rum 2,788		374	10	0	149	13	0							524	3	0
Whiskey 34					6	16	0							6	16	0
Tobacco:—																
Manufactured 11,591		294	6	0	92	17	0	69	15	6	127	5	0	584	3	6
Unmanufactured 1,331		22	3	8										22	3	8
Cigars 618	13,547 lbs.	37	9	0	29	0	0				63	12	0	130	1	0
Snuff 7		1	15	0										1	15	0
Wine:—																
Foreign 6,188	6,188 galls	1,330	13	0	113	7	0							1,444	0	0
British																
Total Amount		36,143	16	6	7,954	10	7	225	3	6	225	3	0	44,548	13	7

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

IMPORTS from 1st April to 30th June 1854.

ARTICLES IMPORTED.		VALUE ON WHICH DUTY HAS BEEN PAID.			
		COUNTRY IMPORTED FROM.			
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Apparel and slops		1,244 11 6	37 9 0			1,282 0 6
Apothecary wares		326 2 0	17 16 0			343 18 0
Bran and pollard						
Bags and sacks		100 16 0	27 14 6			128 10 6
Bricks						
Brooms and brushes		68 8 0				68 8 0
Butter and cheese		424 0 4	41 5 0			465 5 4
Beer, ale and cider, draught 15,950 gallons	24,738 galls.	1,503 11 0				1,503 11 0
Ditto, ale and cider bottled 8,788 gallons		1,476 2 6	24 0 0			1,500 2 6
Boots and shoes		1,158 12 0	562 18 6			1,721 10 6
Books and stationery		601 16 0				601 16 0
Beef, pork, bacon, and hams		475 11 6	268 8 0			743 10 9
Canvass and twine						
Carts, carriages, and wheelwrights work			138 0 0			138 0 0
Cordage		127 4 0	15 18 0			143 2 0
Coffee			19 4 0			19 4 0
Cabinet and upholstery wares		560 11 6	221 5 6			781 17 0
Deals, boards, timber, and spars		57 12 0	36 0 0			93 12 0
Drapery, haberdashery and millinery		5,228 12 10	697 18 6			5,926 11 4
Earthenware and glass		618 8 0	57 12 0			676 0 0
Fruits, dried		119 8 0	61 15 6			181 3 6
Flour and biscuit		80 18 0	4 4 0			85 2 0
Grain: wheat						
Ditto, other			883 2 2			883 2 2
Hardware and cutlery		270 9 11	19 10 0			289 19 11
Hats and bonnets		234 12 0				234 12 0
Hay						
Hops		508 16 0				508 16 0
Horses						
Iron in bar and hooping						
Ironmongery		796 19 3	97 4 0			894 3 3
Leather		640 16 0				640 16 0
Lead		268 16 0				268 16 0
Mats and baskets						
Oilman's stores		1,732 2 2	310 16 2			2,042 18 4
Oils, colours and painter's wares		165 12 0	5 8 0			171 0 0
Potatoes						
Powder and shot		32 8 0				32 8 0
Rice		12 0 0	274 4 0			286 4 0
Sugar, moist		47 8 0	1,818 6 0			1,865 14 0
Ditto, refined		196 11 9				166 11 9
Soap and candles		880 17 0	269 8 0			1,150 5 0
Saddlery and harness		433 4 0				433 4 0
Tea		113 16 0	91 4 0			205 0 0
Tools and implements		508 16 0	24 10 2			533 6 2
Wood goods		63 0 0				63 0 0
All other articles		573 0 0	118 16 0			696 16 0
		21,626 9 3	6,143 17 0			2,770 6 3
Spirits:—						
Arrack						
Brandy 3,168		876 8 0	253 18 0			1,130 6 0
Geneva 255	7,797 galls.	33 18 0	7 5 0			41 3 0
Gin 1,607		257 16 0	63 12 0			321 8 0
Rum 2,767		422 12 6	68 5 0			490 17 6
Whiskey						
Tobacco:—						
Manufactured 9,108		365 16 0	118 19 0			484 15 0
Unmanufactured	9,358 lbs.					
Cigars 406			76 4 0			76 4 0
Snuff 24		6 0 0				6 0 0
Wines:—						
Foreign 3,324	3,324 galls.	537 19 6	209 18 6			747 18 0
British						
Total Amount		24,126 19 3	6,941 18 6			31,068 17 9

IMPORTS from 1st July to 30th September 1854.

ARTICLES IMPORTED.		VALUE ON WHICH DUTY HAS BEEN PAID.				
		COUNTRY IMPORTED FROM.				
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Apparel and slops		1,017 6 0	126 10 0	39 12 0		1,253 8 0
Apothecary wares		164 13 0	2 8 0			167 1 0
Bricks		2 0 0				2 0 0
Brooms and brushes		40 16 0	31 0 0			71 16 0
Butter and cheese		115 10 0	11 10 0			127 0 0
Boots and shoes		829 4 0				829 4 0
Bacon and hams		6 5 0				6 5 0
Cordage		78 0 0	1 4 1			79 4 1
Cabinet and upholstery wares		253 5 0	154 5 0			407 10 0
Carts, carriages, and wheelwrights' work		88 0 0	8 0 0			96 0 0
Deals, boards, timber, and spars		21 5 0				21 5 0
Drapery, haberdashery, millinery, and hosiery		5,384 14 0	395 11 0			5,780 5 0
Earthenware and glass		144 0 0	28 0 0	1 4 0		173 4 0
Fruits, dried		41 0 0	83 0 0			124 0 0
Hardware and cutlery		85 0 0	36 0 0	3 0 0		124 0 0
Hats and bonnets		188 10 0				188 10 0
Hops		367 0 0				367 0 0
Iron, in bar and hooping						
Ironmongery		317 10 0				317 10 0
Leather, unmanufactured		245 0 0	6 12 0			251 12 0
Lead						
Oilman's stores		760 0 0	133 5 0			893 10 0
Powder and shot		54 10 0				54 10 0
Soap and candles		607 0 0		16 16 0		623 16 0
Saddlery and harness		163 0 0				163 0 0
Stationery		263 10 0	4 0 0			267 10 0
Tools and implements		40 0 0				40 0 0
Wood goods						
All other articles		234 11 0	151 11 0			386 2 0
Spirits :—		11,511 14 0	1,242 16 0	60 12 0		12,815 2 0
Arrack						
Brandy 2,691		864 10 0	132 12 0			997 2 0
Geneva						
Gin	2,973 galls.					
Rum 98			24 10 0			24 10 0
Whiskey 184		36 16 0				36 16 0
Wine:—						
British						
Foreign 265	265 galls.	59 12 6				59 12 6
Tobacco:—						
Manufactured 5,359		29 0 0	237 0 8	4 15 0		270 15 8
Unmanufactured						
Cigars 8	5,367 lbs.			1 0 0		1 0 0
Snuff						
Beer, ale, &c. :—						
Draught 100		7 18 4				7 18 4
Bottled 842	942 galls.	115 0 0	45 0 0			160 0 0
Coffee						
Tea 1,605	1,605 lbs.		120 7 6			120 7 6
Sugar :—						
Refined and Candy 25		70 0 0				70 0 0
Moist 278	303 cwt.		285 0 0			285 0 0
Total Amount £		12,694 10 10	2,087 6 2	66 7 0		14,848 4 0

No. 16.

A RETURN of Goods imported (Duty-free) into the Colony of Western Australia during the Quarter ending 30th September 1854.

ARTICLES IMPORTED.	COUNTRY IMPORTED FROM.				
Description.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Animals, living		75 0 0			75 0 0
Bread and biscuit		10 0 0			10 0 0
Bags and sacks	10 0 0	84 17 0			94 17 0
Bales for wool	76 17 0	18 0 0			422 0 0
Books, printed, not being account books	412 0 0	10 0 0			
Bran					
Coals, coke, and other fuel					
Corn and other grain		213 0 0			213 0 0
Flour and meal		5,996 0 0			5,996 0 0
Implements and machinery, agricultural	30 0 0				30 0 0
Meats, salted and cured	80 0 0				80 0 0
Machinery for mills	466 0 0				466 0 0
Oatmeal					
Pumps and other apparatus for raising water	25 0 0				25 0 0
Pulse					
Plants		30 0 0			30 0 0
Rice		25 0 0			25 0 0
£	1,099 17 0	6,367 0 0			7,466 17 0

R. M'B. BROUN,
Collector of Customs.

No. 17.

EXPORTS Western Australia, January 1st to March 31st 1854.

ARTICLES EXPORTED.		ESTIMATED VALUE.				
		COUNTRY TO WHICH EXPORTED.				
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Bricks	25,000		75 0 0			75 0 0
Fish	6½ tons.		129 0 0			129 0 0
Gum	3,752 lbs.	44 13 0				44 13 0
Hides and skins	9,300 skins.		183 0 0			183 0 0
Lime	3,358 bushels		167 18 0			167 18 0
Specimens in Natural History			7 0 0			7 0 0
Timber		25 0 0	970 4 6			995 4 6
Tallow	338 lbs.		8 10 0			8 10 0
Vegetables			66 5 10			66 5 10
Whalebone	18½ cwt.	138 7 0				138 7 0
Woodwork			18 12 0			18 12 0
Wool	370,266 lbs.	16,936 6 0	1,774 0 0			18,710 6 0
£		17,144 6 0	3,399 10 4			20,543 16 4

Imported Articles Re-exported.

	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
	£ s. d.				£ s. d.
Apparel and slops	60 0 0				60 0 5
Apothecary wares	5 0 0				5 0 0
Butter and cheese	25 0 0				25 0 0
Hams	27 4 0				27 4 0
£	117 4 0				117 4 0

Exports, Western Australia, from 31st April to 30th June 1854.

Articles Exported.		ESTIMATED VALUE.				
		Country Exported from.				
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
			£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Animals living	2 Horses.		50 0 0			50 0 0
Salt	20 Tons.		100 0 0			100 0 0
Timber			4,063 0 0			4,063 0 0
Woodwork			350 0 0			350 0 0
£			4,563 0 0			4,563 0 0

Imported Articles Re-exported from 1st April to 30th June 1854.

	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Beer, ale, cyder, 894 gallons		117 6 0			117 6 0
Drapery and haberdashery		240 0 0			240 0 0
Cabinet and upholstery wares		67 10 0			67 10 0
Earthenware and glass		10 0 0			10 0 0
Hardware and cutlery		69 0 0			69 0 0
Leather unmanufactured		50 0 0			50 0 0
Oilman's stores		67 0 0			67 0 0
Soap and candles		42 0 0			42 0 0
Woodwork		45 0 0			45 0 0
Spirits :—					
Gin 108 gallons		21 12 0			21 12 0
Rum 84 gallons		14 14 0			14 14 0
Wine :—					
Foreign 674 gallons		151 13 0			151 13 0
Tobacco :—					
Cigars 290 lbs.		72 10 0			72 10 0
£		968 5 0			968 5 0

Exports, Western Australia, for the Quarter ending 30th September 1854.

Articles Exported.		ESTIMATED VALUE.				
		Country to which Exported.				
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
			£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Fish	3 tons.		25 0 0			25 0 0
Oil (Whale)	8 tuns.		460 0 0			460 0 0
Timber	73 tons.		642 5 0			642 5 0
Hides and skins	202 skins.		3 19 6			3 19 6
Vegetables			16 0 0	48 0 0		16 0 0
£			1,147 4 6	48 0 0		1,195 4 6

Imported Articles Re-exported from 1st July to 30th September 1854.

	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Carts, carriages and wheelwright's work		10 0 0			10 0 0
Oilman's stores		16 0 0			16 0 0
Tea		15 0 0			15 0 0
Spirits :—					
Brandy 790 gallons		276 10 0			276 10 0
Geneva 132 gallons		19 16 0			19 16 0
Rum 2,215 gallons		387 12 6			387 12 6
Whiskey 59 gallons		11 16 0			11 16 0
£		736 14 6			736 14 6

R. M'B. Broun, Collector of Customs.

No. 18.

RETURN of Shipping entered Inwards in the Colony for the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	No. of Vessels Entered Inwards.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.
1848 - -	69	1,416	4,888	9,080	110	15,494
1849 -	42	927	4,314	2,379	332	7,952
1850 - -	64	3,584	5,841	5,633	930	15,988
1851 -	79	4,628	10,206	2,706	„	16,540
1852 - -	74	12,883	8,701	1,610	2,132	25,326
1853 -	108	24,139	18,285	1,136	1,190	44,750
*1854 -	59	8,336	18,116	1,330	„	27,782

* Calculated to 30th September only.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 19.

RETURN of Shipping entered Outwards in the Colony of Western Australia during the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	No. of Vessels Entered Outwards.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1848 - -	68	398	5,161	7,533	365	13,457
1849 -	—	—	—	—	—	—
1850 - -	67	4,841	4,473	4,341	1,093	14,748
1851 -	79	2,810	11,339	4,215	297	18,661
1852 - -	76	5,019	14,766	1,901	2,340	24,026
1853 -	98	6,860	24,120	1,136	6,705	38,821
*1854 - -	67	3,735	23,051	701	4,958	32,445

* To 30th September only.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 20.

A RETURN of all "Vessels entered Inwards" in the Colony of Western Australia from 1st January to 30th September 1854.

1854.	No. of Vessels. Entered Inwards.	Great Britain.		British Colonies.		United States.		Foreign States.		Total.	
		Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.
Quarter ending 31st March	25	4,203	169	8,009	528	898	76	—	—	13,110	773
Ditto „ 30th June	17	2,536	114	5,480	420	—	—	—	—	8,016	534
Ditto „ 30th Sept.	17	1,597	76	4,627	531	432	33	—	—	6,656	640

R. M'B. BROUN,
Collector of Customs.

No. 21.

A RETURN of all "Vessels Cleared Outwards" in the Colony of Western Australia from 1st January to 30th September 1854.

1854.	No. of Vessels Cleared Outwards.	Great Britain.		British Colonies.		United States.		Foreign States.		Total.	
		Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.
Quarter ending 31st March	30	3,735	165	9,568	567	269	24	2,453	81	16,025	837
Ditto „ 30th June	19	—	—	7,023	524	—	—	1,743	79	8,766	603
Ditto „ 30th Sept.	18	—	—	6,460	628	432	33	762	22	7,654	683

R. M'B. BROUN,
Collector of Customs.

Enclosure 2 in No. 35.

Perth, March 7, 1855.

To his Excellency CHARLES FITZGERALD, Esq., Commander in the Royal Navy, &c. &c.,
Governor of Western Australia and its Dependencies.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the Members of the Board of Education, in submitting to your Excellency the following Report, beg in the first place to express our regret that, should the news recently received from England be confirmed, this will be the last annual report that we shall have the honour to lay before your Excellency.

The interest that your Excellency has manifested in the cause of education has been rewarded by the establishment on a firm basis of many excellent schools, and has awakened a real and general demand for good education in every district in the colony.

The principal business on which we have been engaged during the past year has been the consideration of and the compiling a set of rules and regulations, which we had the honour of laying before your Excellency a short time since, and for the approval of which we have the honour to render our thanks to your Excellency.

Some of these rules have guided the board from the commencement of its operations, others have been made necessary by rules which have emanated from the office of Colonial Secretary, and others in the opinion of the board have become essential from circumstances recently developed in this particular colony.

The principal alterations which have been adopted after much consideration are :— 1st, the introduction into our system of the principle, that the education given at the Government schools should ultimately be limited only by our means of obtaining instructors ; and, secondly, the fixing as a present limit, an education for boys equal to that obtainable at a good English grammar school, and for girls such a one as a respectable middle-class person would endeavour to secure for his daughter in England.

Although at first sight this may appear extravagant, a consideration of the following arguments will, we are convinced, lead all persons interested in the question to agree with us on this most important subject.

In large communities it is possible for all ranks and classes to be educated separately, each class is sufficiently numerous and sufficiently wealthy to pay teachers for its own children ; but here, were the whole of the wealthy class of the colony to unite for the purpose, they could not give an adequate remuneration to a single good teacher of each sex, when the high prices which would be demanded for boarding are taken into consideration. Thus that class which would in future naturally lead the community, could not as an whole be better educated than those who would be their workmen or servants.

In this colony the children of the middle and some of the working classes will probably be among the governing body of the colony at no distant period. We cannot but think that it is far better that such should be educated to the greatest extent that their circumstances would admit of, than that they should be left in a state worse than ignorance, that is, given the means of acquiring and imparting knowledge without those powers which may lead them to form a true judgment of affairs and tastes which may tend to cherish kindly and courteous feelings in the conduct of them.

The Government, by the adoption of this principle, will also gain the great advantage of obtaining, as the conductors of their more numerous schools, gentlemen of superior attainment ; the richer classes obtain a good solid education at a rate far less than they could in any other method, and the poorer the benefit of a direct and constant supervision by the first teacher.

The most obvious objection which we can foresee to the proposal is, the discouragement that this system will afford to private enterprize.

The argument that good teachers are not obtainable by any other method than that pointed out is perhaps the best answer to this objection. It is a good education that is required by the public ; if the Government bid the highest they will get the best teacher obtainable in any given place, and, in all probability, will induce persons to resort to the profession of education as a means of livelihood who would not otherwise have done so.

The Government system, offering as it does, employment and assistance to the duly qualified teacher, whenever a demand for education exists, can do no prejudice to his or her interests ; and we are of opinion that the existence of many inferior teachers, where superior are obtainable, can only tend to depress the standard of education.

The additional expense of the system is by no means so considerable as might have been anticipated ; for example, in the Perth boys' school—the only one in which it at present is in operation—we do not consider it will exceed at most 25*l.* to 40*l.* per annum, the only additional demand at present being 10*l.* per annum, for the teaching of music by the second master.

It will not probably be applicable to more than two or three schools for some time. The experiment appears to be worth trying, and it would seem the duty of the Government to comply as far as possible with a demand which has for some time existed.

With regard to the schools under our charge, we have much pleasure in reporting that four new schools have been opened during the past year, namely, the Fremantle girls'

school, Pinjarrah, Vasse, and Port Gregory mixed schools. One of them, the Fremantle girls' school, we recommend to be placed on the permanent list, and we consider that the York school should also receive the same advantage, the schoolhouse having been so far completed as to be occupied, and the school altogether being one of the best managed in the colony.

We beg to acknowledge the great advantage the Perth and Fremantle boys' school have derived from the occupation of their new buildings. At Toodyay the schoolhouse is so near completion that it will probably be ready for occupation before the teachers the local committee have sent for from England arrive.

While on the subject, we would beg to call attention to the conduct of the School Committee at this latter place, as deserving of every encouragement and imitation; it is by local exertion and superintendence that schools can be made successful, and nothing can ensure a greater amount of this than the taking the whole matter into local hands, they merely adopting the system, and receiving such aid as the central authority is able to give.

The number of scholars educated at the thirteen Government schools during the past year has been 644, being an increase of 200 above the number in 1853. The girls' school at Albany being excluded from both years in consequence of the non-receipt of returns. Of this increase 132 are due to the new schools.

There are probably 1,600 children in the colony of an age capable of receiving instruction either in the infant or elder schools; of this number there may be, at an high estimate, 400 receiving instruction at the Roman Catholic or private schools, consequently 600 must be without the means or inclination on the part of the parents to educate them.

That a large proportion of this 600 are within the reach of existing schools we are convinced, and we hope that the information now given to the public will induce many parents who now hold back to take advantage of the system, as well as teachers of a superior class to become candidates for situations we from time to time are enabled to offer.

On the state of each school we would remark, that the Perth boys' school has lost a master and his wife, as first and second teacher, whose places have been supplied by a gentleman and second teacher who are apparently able to carry the school to a far greater state of efficiency than has hitherto been practicable.

The Guildford school appears in a far more satisfactory state than last year. The master of the school will probably be able to educate to nearly the full extent of our requirements.

The York school appears to do much credit to the local committee and teacher; the acquirements of the master do not extend to more than a strictly English education; but this is perhaps sufficient for the present wants of the district.

The Fremantle girls' and infants' schools appear to be in a fair position; the former is but recently established and is hardly in good working order, but its state altogether gives much promise.

The Fremantle boys' school is at present under the second teacher, and as far as it goes is in a tolerably effective state. It is to be hoped that in the course of the year a trained master will arrive, who, it is expected, will be obtained through the medium of the Home and Colonial Church Society, when the school may, it is hoped, take a position corresponding to the importance of the town.

The Bunbury mixed school, and the Perth girls and infant schools fall somewhat short of the mark required for their respective localities. We believe that the teachers are in all painstaking, and their conduct is exemplary, but their acquirements are hardly those which fit them for the education of schools of considerable size. As far as Perth girls' school is concerned, the grant your Excellency has consented to place on the estimates for this year, will probably enable us to supply the want of a more satisfactory education for the young girls of Perth and its vicinity.

We take this opportunity of tendering our grateful thanks to Mrs. FitzGerald for her unremitting attention to the education and care of the girls in this school, as we believe that this has prevented it being to a great extent deserted for other schools which afford education of a higher class.

The remaining schools, with the exception of Albany, from which the Board are unable to obtain returns, have been too recently established for us to express any definite opinion on their merits.

We beg to express our thanks to the local government for the supply of school necessaries received during the past year. A fresh supply being needed, as well as means of obtaining school furniture, we would ask your Excellency to place a small sum at our disposal for these purposes. There is a sum on the estimates for firewood, which appears to be unnecessary, if we were allowed to employ this sum for the purpose above specified, it might be sufficient for this year. But a large number of maps and other somewhat expensive necessaries and books should be sent for as soon as possible; these will have to be paid for in 1856, and we would recommend that from 100*l.* to 150*l.* be placed on the estimates of 1856 for this purpose.

In the present year the extra sum required will be as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Perth, Second teacher as music master	10	0	0
„ Teacher, girls' school, 9 months	45	0	0
„ Second ditto, in lieu of fees	5	0	0
„ Pupil teacher	14	10	6
„ Hire of piano, 9 months	7	10	0
York mixed school	70	0	0
To meet underdraft on schoolhouse, York	50	0	0
Schoolmistress's salary, Fremantle	35	0	0
Rent of school, Fremantle	30	0	0
Additional contributions to rural schools	30	0	0
Total	£297	0	6

Of this, 50*l.* is a charge which should have been borne in 1854, *i.e.*, the contribution towards the building of the York Schoolhouse. Seventy pounds and sixpence (70*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*) is the additional charges consequent on the adoption of the new system in two schools, and the remaining 167*l.* by the increase of school accommodation required by the colony.

There will however be an underdraft on the estimate of this year of 80*l.*, so that the whole extra amount required will not exceed 217*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

The total expense of the department, including the whole charge of educating at least 644 children, and the construction of at least one schoolhouse and residence for the teacher, will not exceed 1,271*l.*, or rather more than 2*l.* for each child taught; but as a large increase in the number of children may be expected in the present year, it may be hoped that this ratio may be considerably diminished.

It is to be remembered that in a scattered community like this the cost of education per head will be much larger than in the denser one, particularly at the commencement or during any considerable enlargement of the system.

We are confident that on no one object could a liberal expenditure be more judiciously incurred, or which may more early meet with a return, than the providing a good and substantial education for the young of the colony.

W. A. Sanford.
F. Lochee.
G. V. Pownall.
J. Leonard.
W. Lowe.

Return of the Number of Schools, &c.

Name of the Parish, and in what County or District.	Public or Free School.	Name of the Schoolmaster or Mistress, and Salary.	Number of Scholars. Male.	Female.	Total.	Mode of Instruction.	If supported by Government or Voluntary Contribution, and Amount of each. Government.	Voluntary Contribution.	Expense of School.
							£		£
Perth	Boys	Mr. W. Johnson, Mrs. Johnson	112		112	Ordinary class teaching. In the superior schools at Perth and Guildford. Classics and Mathematics are taught to a certain extent, and in the rest an education based on that adopted by the Commissioners of Irish Education is given. See Report.	164	Fees.	164
Ditto	Girls	Mrs. Newman, F. Cole, Pupil Teacher		44	44		52	Fees about 5*l.*	57
Ditto	Infant	Mrs. Britnall	22	23	55		40	Fees about 7*l.*	47
Fremantle	Boys	John Davis	81		81		80	Fees.	80
Ditto	Girls	Eliza Chester	13	61	74		65	Fees.	65
Ditto	Infant	M. A. Pengelly	21	38	59		40	Fees.	40
Guildford	Mixed	Rev. W. Williams	18	19	37		61	Fees and 10*l.* per an.	71
York	Mixed	G. R. Teede	36	20	56		*220	Fees and 37*l.*†	257
Bunbury	Mixed	James Hislop, B. Hislop	28	20	48		60	26*l.*	86
Pinjarrah	Mixed	John Fairburn	15	6	21		25	Fees.	25
Busselton	Mixed	L. T. Cook	5	10	15		15	Fees.	15
Port Gregory	Mixed	John Brown	15	9	22		32	Fees and 5*l.*	37
Albany	Girls	L. P. Knight			20		20	Fees.	20
					644				

* This includes 150*l.* for building schools.

† 37*l.* for building school.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Rules for the Government of the Public Schools in the Colony of Western Australia.

1. All schools receiving aid from colonial funds through the board, shall at all hours be open to inspection by, and be under, the control of the board.

2. The reading of the Scriptures, either in the original language or the authorized version, is the method approved for imparting religious instruction in the Government schools.

3. Five hours at the least in the day, during five days at least in the week, are to be devoted to secular education.

4. Any person who is willing to establish a school under the regulations of the board, must agree to conform to the whole of them, unless exempted by the General Board in any particular case, and such exemption must receive the sanction of his Excellency.

Mode of establishing a School in the first instance.

5. Any person or persons wishing to establish a school may communicate with the secretary of the Board of Education on the subject. This communication must contain a statement of the number of children who are likely to attend; the names of at least three respectable persons who are willing to become a Local School Committee, the distance from the nearest school, the accommodation provided, and any other information likely to be of service. Should the application on the whole receive the sanction of the General Board, the board are prepared to recommend that the Government allowances should be given according to the following scale :—

12	pupils	20*l.*	per annum.
15	„	25*l.*	„
20	„	30*l.*	„
25	„	35*l.*	„

The number of pupils is to be ascertained by a daily average taken each month, and this should be certified by the chairman of the local committee.

Establishment of a fixed School.

6. When a school is fairly established with a fixed or increasing number of pupils, on the above principle, the board are prepared to recommend the payment of a fixed salary to the master or mistress exceeding 35*l.*, according to conditions herein-after mentioned, together with assistance towards the construction or rental of a schoolhouse.

7. The rule which has been hitherto adopted by the local government in giving aid to the construction of rural school buildings is this :—If the local committee construct a substantial building, containing four living rooms and kitchen, as a teacher's residence, a room at least 32 × 16 × 9 feet to the wall plate, a dormitory at least 32 × 8, they will be entitled, on the recommendation of the General Board, to 250*l.* from the colonial chest. Furniture will in general have to be provided from local resources.

Local Committees.

8. The duties of the local committee will consist in general inspection, examination of accounts, the making of requisitions, reporting to the General Board, and the general local superintendence of the school.

Education.

9. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd form will be entitled, in both boys' and girls' schools, to receive the fullest extent of the education contained in the books of the Irish National Education system (except the scripture lessons for which the whole Bible is substituted), if the teacher profess so much, together with vocal and instrumental part music, and class drawing where competent teachers are obtainable. The 4th form is, in the boys' school, entitled to receive education of an higher class, the elements of Latin, French, algebra to simple equations, first and second books of Euclid, Greek, Roman, and English history, such as is contained in Chambers' Educational Course, physical geography, first principles of astronomy, first principles of chemistry, drawing from models, together with music as before. 5th form, a thorough grounding in Greek, Latin, and French, Algebra, Euclid, and so much of mechanics and hydrostatics as is required for an ordinary degree at Cambridge, (Whewell's Mechanical Euclid,) and the elements of physical science contained in such books as Herschell's Astronomy, Fowne's Chemistry, Lyell's Principles of Geology, Jones' Animal Kingdom, and further instructions in history. The History of England in Lardner's Cyclopedia, Guizot, Civilization in Europe, and Keightley's Outlines of History, will be the present text books of history; Telemaque will be the first French school book; Virgil, Sallust, and Cæsar, are the authorized Latin books; the Greek Testament, Homer, and Xenophon's Anabasis, are the authorized Greek books. Of the English poets—Shakspeare, Spencer, Milton, Goldsmith, and Wordsworth, are to be taught in the three higher classes at least, by the recitation or reading of selected portions. The 4th and 5th form in the girls' school might, if mistresses are obtainable, include a thorough grounding in French, the theory as well as the practice of music, singing, and if possible the piano, or a substitute for the organ; drawing from models as well as from copies; fine work; physical science

as contained in such books as Michell's Orbs of Heaven, Marcet's Conversations, &c. The board are prepared to recommend that this list be not further extended at present, other than that the books in the authorized list may be changed for others, which from time to time may be found more available or more suitable. But as the colony advances, it is to be hoped that the system of education in the government schools may comprise every subject forming part of the best modern education. It is, however, important to remark, that those availing themselves of the higher advantages that the board may be able to afford, cannot expect to do so at so low a price as that now fixed for the higher classes of education given. It is however distinctly to be understood, that any teacher in a Government school may, if he be able to teach any other language or science than that contained in the Government list, do so on his own terms out of school hours.

School Fees.

10.	1st form	2*d.* per week.
	2nd ditto	4*d.* ditto.
	3rd ditto	6*d.* ditto.
	4th ditto	50*s.* per annum.
	5th ditto	5*l.* ditto.

These fees shall in all cases be demanded, but no more, for the respective classes, except in cases of special exemption, of either the whole or part; such cases are to be recommended to the local committee by a minister of religion or other person who may satisfy the committee, and no person shall have the power to exempt, except the local committee. In cases of entire exemption, the child is to be found in books, &c., at the expense of the local Government. As a general rule, children entirely exempt shall be taught only in the three lowest classes composing the strictly English education.

Supply of Books and School requisites.

11. As the system of education in the Government schools is as far as possible uniform, the Government undertake to supply books for the three first forms at fixed prices; Mr. Arthur Shenton has undertaken to supply books for the two higher forms at fixed prices also:* a priced list is annexed. The Government supply free of cost to each school, a complete single set of books for each teacher as far as he or she may profess to teach, also a complete set of maps, charts, and other school requisites gradually. The teachers will be responsible for the due care of these books and requisites, and for all moneys received by the sale of books in their respective schools. When a school is in want of books for sale or otherwise, a requisition on one of the government forms should be sent by the local committee to the secretary of the Board of Education, who will take the requisite measures for obtaining the necessary approval or correction of such requisition, and the books, &c., so obtained will be transmitted by the caretaker of the Stationery Office to the local committee at the expense of the local school fund; should, however, in particular cases, the carriage be required also to be found by the Local Government, the amount should be stated on the face of the requisition. In all cases the requisition should be accompanied by a detailed statement of the disposal of the last supply, and by the remittance to the secretary of the board of any funds derived from the sale of books. All requisitions should be made as much in advance as possible, and a statement of the probable requirements of the ensuing year should be sent previous to the 1st of March in each year. These last statements should include in all cases the list of the maps and other single requisites and books, then actually existing in the school, in order that a judgment may be formed of the requirements in these respects by the proper authorities.

School Libraries.

12. It is desirable as the system progresses, that school libraries be formed for adult education. It is hoped that the foundation of these shall be in all cases laid by private donations or subscriptions; it is confidently expected by the board that an annual sum, to be devoted to the purchase of the more expensive works requisite, will be annually voted by the Legislative Council. It is recommended that such sum be expended not merely in books, but in good engravings, models, statuettes; chemical, electrical, and other philosophical instruments. The board being convinced that without such and similar means of refinement and sound education, books alone can convey but an inadequate idea of the progress of science and civilization.

Teachers.

13. The board do not recommend in the present state of the colony a strict classification of teachers. But they would do so to a certain extent, and that the salaries should be proportioned to their acquirements; they would then recommend that 100*l.* at least should be given to a master able to teach the whole of the forms, but in cases of superior intelligence or success, they should be enabled to increase this amount to 150*l.*, together with house rent not exceeding 25*l.* per annum, or a suitable house. If competent to teach

* This does not prevent other parties from selling the same books.

the three first forms thoroughly, together with portions of the requirements of the fourth and fifth, they would recommend that he receive at least 75*l.*, to be increased in particular cases to 100*l.* per annum, with 20*l.* per annum house rent, or a house. A good schoolmistress able to give the best education required by the board, is recommended to be placed in the same rank as the last mentioned. Teachers of either sex competent to teach the larger number of the requirements of the board in the three lowest forms, are recommended in cases of fixed salaries for not less than 40*l.*, nor more than 75*l.*, with 15*l.* house allowance, or a house. The above apply to unaided or first teachers of schools, who will receive in addition the whole of the fees derivable from the pupils. If the second master of a school is fit to teach the whole of the three first forms and music, the board recommend that a salary of from 60*l.* to 75*l.*, be allotted to him. If of a lower form from 40*l.* to 60*l.* In addition to the above it is recommended that pupil teachers be introduced in accordance with the following rule:—

Prizes.

14. An annual examination of proficiency shall take place in each school, for which it is hoped prizes will be provided from local resources. The first prize child in the third, fourth, and fifth forms shall, if reported qualified for the purpose, and if there be a vacancy in the number regulated for the school, be entitled to indenture him or herself to the first teacher of the school for a period of not less than three years. This pupil teacher, as he or she will be called, is to conduct the detail of the education of one of the lower forms of the school, under the inspection and direction of the first teacher, who will give him or her the best education in his or her power in full extension of the course laid down by the board. His Excellency will be requested to apply to the Legislative Council not only for salaries for the pupil teachers (not exceeding 18*l.* per annum for each), but also for funds to pay the teachers the amount of fees for the class in which the pupil is taught. Although free children are generally limited in their education to the first three forms, prize holders in the third form will if free be entitled to a free education in the fourth, and prize holders in the fourth to a similar advantage in the fifth, with the privileges allowed to pupil teachers.

Rules of Detail.

15. Drunkenness, or gross immorality, or cruelty of any description, will subject the teacher to immediate and disgraceful dismissal.

16. Teachers may be called on at any time to pass an examination by the General Board, failing in which they may be reduced in class, or they may lose their office or any aid they may receive through the board.

17. A visitor's book is to be kept in every school in a public place. Every visitor is to be courteously received by the teacher, but in no case to be allowed to interrupt the business of the school by audible observations or questions, without consent of the teacher. He may enter any observations in the book prepared for the purpose, and the teacher is to have the same privilege in the same book.* This rule does not apply to authorised inspectors when appointed by the General Board or the local committee, who may examine teachers or children to the extent of their authorization.

18. Three books should be kept by the teacher of every school, *i.e.*, a register of daily attendance, a register of payments, and a class book showing the conduct and position in school of each child.

19. A time table should be kept in each school on a board, showing what book or portion of book is in course of teaching at each school hour in each form. It will be found convenient to have them in the following form:—

	Hours.					
Classes	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

The subject being written each day in chalk.

* This does not apply to salaried inspectors, but only to such as may from time to time be requested to report on the state of any particular school.

20. Political or other use of the school buildings, calculated to destroy the respect and kindly feeling due to its character, is strictly prohibited.

21. Married masters, or single mistresses, may take boarders, if they have proper accommodation, on their own terms.

Holidays.

22. The holidays are not to exceed one month in all in the year, this time being divided at the discretion of the local committee in each case. The ten usual colonial holidays are not to be included in this estimate. Extra single holidays may be granted at the discretion of the local committee.

W. A. SANFORD,
Chairman of General Board of Education.

Approved, CHARLES FITZGERALD.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 36.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to the Right Honourable Sir GEORGE GREY Bart.

(No. 53.)

Government House, Auckland, New Zealand,
May 11, 1855.

SIR, (Received September 21, 1855.)

FINDING it utterly impossible (from the changes and alterations that have during the last eighteen or twenty months taken place in the various departments of the public service consequent on the introduction of the new constitution) to collect the necessary information to enable the Colonial Secretary to complete with accuracy the Blue Book even for the year 1853, I called upon that officer for such Returns as he could rely upon, as required by your Despatch No. 8, 13th January 1854, and in transmitting the same for your information I beg also to enclose a copy of a special explanation of the delay that may at first appear unnecessary, but which I trust may be satisfactorily accounted for by the incessant difficulties that have from time to time presented themselves.

These impediments are not likely to occur again; thorough and systematic arrangements having been made in every branch of the general and provincial governments, I feel satisfied the necessary information will for the future be punctually completed, and regularly transmitted within the period prescribed by the regulations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. WYNYARD,
Officer administering the Government.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 36.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Auckland,
March 29, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency the accompanying portions of the Blue Book for the year 1853, with copies of the returns that have been furnished for the remainder, and at the same time I beg leave to express my regret at having failed to obtain the necessary information, even up to the present late date, for its completion.

In explanation of the incompleteness of the Blue Book, and the delay that has occurred, I may state that in consequence of the changes which took place on the introduction of the new constitution in the year 1853, as well as from other causes, the returns required for its completion became more numerous and more complex than formerly, and they have, therefore, in some cases, been either not furnished at all or only in a very imperfect state, although applications to the several provincial governments, as well as to the officers of the general government concerned, have repeatedly been made for the information required.

NEW ZEALAND.

It will be seen on the examination of the returns that there is very little information respecting the provinces of Wellington and Otago. On the 14th ultimo the superintendent of the latter province represented that he had up to that date been unable to obtain the information required of him, though he expressed a hope he would soon have it in his power to furnish the returns both for the year 1853 and 1854. The superintendent of Wellington has also stated in a letter, dated 21st March last, that he found it would not be in his power to prepare the returns at all for the year 1853.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW SINCLAIR,
Colonial Secretary.

PART V.

EASTERN COLONIES.

PART V.—EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

No. 37.

CEYLON.

No. 37.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. G. Ward, to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell.

Queen's House, Colombo, May 16, 1855.

My Lord, (Received, July 7, 1855.)

The period having arrived at which the returns designated as the Blue Book are usually transmitted to the Colonial Office, I have directed them to be forwarded, but without any accompanying despatch; this I shall take the liberty of submitting to your Lordship when I have been enabled to make myself better acquainted with the financial prospects of the colony, upon which I shall hardly consider myself competent to give an opinion for two or three months.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, (Signed) H. G. WARD.
&c. &c. &c.

HONG KONG.

No. 38.

HONG KONG.

No. 38.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Colonel Caine to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell.

(No. 79.) Victoria, Hong Kong, June 9, 1855.

My Lord, (Received, July, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1854, as transmitted to me by the Colonial Secretary, with his letter No. 302 of the 5th instant, to which I beg most particularly to call the attention of your Lordship.

I trust the state and prospects of the colony as shown therein will be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. CAINE.

The Right Honourable Lord John Russell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 38.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,
Sir, Hong Kong, June 5, 1855.

I have the honor to forward the Blue Book of Hong Kong for the past year 1854, and take the opportunity to note the great advance recently made by this colony.

2. The revenue for the year has amounted to 27,045*l.* 3*s.* 5¼*d.*, and the expenditure to 34,635*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*; the revenue being in excess of that for 1853 by 2,344*l.* 17*s.* 1¾*d.*, and the table of expenditure showing a reduction of 1,713*l.* 11*s.* 11½*d.*

This result must be considered most satisfactory.

3. As regards military expenditure, the payments made by the Commissariat and Ordnance Departments are stated together at 41,540*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, being 8,805*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* less than during the previous year.

4. The outlay on account of public works amounts to 5,238*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, of which 3,262*l.* 8*s.* 10½*d.* was expended on the new Government House, now close on its completion. The total amount is under that of last year by 633*l.* 11*s.*

The number of convicts at labour on the roads has exceeded that of 1853, and more work has consequently been obtained from them.

5. Six ordinances have passed the Legislative Council during the year; one to meet a temporary object by raising an additional police rate, another to

regulate the markets, and three having reference to the Supreme Court. The sixth respects the unclaimed balances of intestate estates, and is again under consideration of the Council.

With the exception of this last all have received Her Majesty's confirmation, as has a Regula Generalis, passed in November for increasing the number of criminal sessions of the Supreme Court, and reducing fees.

6. By the returns of the Registrar General it will be seen that a most remarkable increase has taken place in the Chinese population of the colony. In 1853, the Chinese numbered 37,536, in 1854 54,072. This increase is mainly referable to Victoria, and arises directly and indirectly from the confusion which has prevailed in the city of Canton and its neighbourhood, more particularly in the latter half of the year. The influx of people flying from the troubles that threatened the provincial city caused the direct addition to our numbers; and as amongst these were many tradesmen, business also came with them, and with increase of trade came further increase of population.

The Registrar General's Returns are of course exclusive of troops, and I may add that to the presence of these troops, though much reduced in number, is to be attributed the confidence with which, during the recent disturbances, the colony has been regarded.

7. The colonial surgeon's Report is interesting, and his remarks on the necessity of drainage and ventilation have already received consideration, but the habits of the Chinese render them difficult to be dealt with in these respects. Small pox seems to have been the principal scourge of the island during the past year, and I think it may be said that with this exception the climate is undoubtedly improved.

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8. The Report of the Chinese Education Committee does not show a very satisfactory result, but the attention of Government is directed to the subject.

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9. That the trade of the colony is largely increasing, the removal of so many mercantile firms to this place is a sufficient proof, and a glance at the harbour will show the great improvement in the extent and importance of the native trade.

It is, however, much to be regretted that the numerous piratical bands infesting the surrounding waters present a serious check to the further development of this branch of commerce.

10. An emigrant officer was appointed in May, and I believe the measure to have been attended with good effect. The efflux of Chinese to California and New South Wales, especially to Melbourne, still continues.

11. The number of Chinese and others who resorted, as above described, to Hong Kong during the year rendered it necessary to make provision for their habitation, and two sales of land by public auction were accordingly held.

The result of these is as follows:—Four acres for building lots have been leased; the annual rental on which due to Government amounts to 492*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, and the premium paid on the leases to 1,177*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

In the Surveyor General's letter, No. 18, of 28th March, which will be found in the Blue Book, and is well worthy of perusal and consideration, the necessity is shown of extending the city along the water in a western direction. As in that locality are to be found almost the only valuable spots now left for carrying on trade with facility, and as, should this ground not be disposed of, the town itself, especially in the Chinese part, will be unhealthily over-crowded, I would earnestly support Mr. Cleverley's recommendation that the land to the westward be planned forthwith for sale.

Surveyor General's Reports. 28th March 1855. Pages 298 and 301.

The nearer portion of the ground to which I allude has already been sold, and in the stagnant days of the colony was thrown back on the hands of Government; the further part has been occupied, but is now abandoned by the Naval Department, who have acquired a more convenient position in the centre of the town.

I see, therefore, no obstacle to the sale of this land as suggested, for if necessary a battery can be erected here, which will meet all the requirements of the Ordnance officers.

12. As regards crime, I learn from the Superintendent of Police that this has not, as might have been expected, increased in proportion with the augmented population. Still there is an increase as shown in the Gaol Returns, and a heavy expenditure is incurred on this account.

I am not aware of any further points demanding particular remark, but am convinced that a careful perusal of this book will induce considerable surprise

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and satisfaction at the progress made by Hong Kong in 1854, and I am glad to be able to state that this progress does not to the present moment show any sign of relapse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. MERCER.

The Hon. Lieut.-Colonel Caine, Lieutenant Governor.

Surveyor General's Office, Victoria,
March 28, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit my annual report upon public works in progress during the past year.

Buildings.

Government House, contrary to my expectation, is not yet complete, notwithstanding I have made every possible exertion to expedite the work. The contractor and his securities received notice that the bonds would be enforced if more active progress was not made, but they complained that it was impossible to obtain some materials unless at a most exorbitant rate, and others could not be obtained at all in consequence of the troubles in Canton, and the numerous hordes of pirates which infest the approaches, laying embargoes upon all Chinese vessels passing to and fro; in addition to which the difficulties of the contractor have been added to by the increased wages he has had to pay to labourers of all kinds, and this, coupled with his previous losses, as reported last year, has caused the great delay in the completion of the work. I have great satisfaction, however, in stating that although I have necessarily been obliged to dispense with much ornamental plaster work, as no gypsum has been procurable, the decoration of the building has been satisfactorily performed, and I am in every respect perfectly satisfied with the execution of the work.

The stables, kitchens, offices, and guard house, from the causes above enumerated, have been delayed in a similar manner. At the present date, however, the works have so far advanced that little is now required but painting, so that the whole premises will shortly be fit for occupation. Considerable advances have also been made towards the completion of the grounds and public roads, effected partly under Report and Estimate, No. 11, of 1853, and partly by convict labour, the planting and grassing being executed and charged to Report and Estimate, No. 1, of 1848. With the former of these two services delay has also occurred, as the greater portion of the trees required are necessarily procured out of the colony; fortunately, however, by the kindness of the proprietors I obtained a considerable supply by thinning some of their gardens, and these, although removed in winter and at an unfavourable time, have succeeded remarkably well, and but few have died in the immediate vicinity of the principal building. I have planted a sufficient quantity of trees and shrubs, and nothing now remains but to complete the grassing and planting on the slopes.

It was originally intended to have enclosed these grounds with a post and rail fence, but this was abandoned, and a rough stone wall has been erected instead, affording better protection and of imperishable materials at a cost of 235*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* This wall embraces the whole area attached to the house, with the exception of a length of 140 feet up the slope of the embankment on the west side, and where the erection of a wall is impracticable. To effect the inclosure in that direction I propose to plant a thick hedge of prickly pear and bamboos, which will be quite sufficient protection. This embankment has been formed with considerable difficulty, it being no less than 80 feet in hight, and has consequently taken a considerable time to consolidate; it suffered materially during the early part of last year, but having grassed it over and prevented any flow of water thereon, its surface has been preserved from injury, and it is now assuming a green and secure appearance.

The works in laying down branch-pipes to the "main" for the supply of water to Government House has been in progress also, but I fear some extensive supplementary service must be effected to render the supply perfect at all times, for I perceive that there is insufficient water in the dry season (for four months) to keep the pipes from the tank to the barracks always full, and unless they are so the water is not forced through any of the ascending branches, so that it is absolutely necessary to adopt measures to remedy this, which must be done by the erection of another tank in some convenient locality, so as to collect the streams, say 80 feet vertical below the present tank, and connect it with the main, with suitable stopcocks to regulate the supply, render the scheme perfect, and, above all, to provide for a large demand in case of fire or other emergencies.

Under authority of Report and Estimate, No. 23, of 1853, two small school-houses for Chinese were erected, one in Hollywood Road, the other in the Wongneichung Valley. The site chosen for the former was on the side of the steep hill, so that one corner of the school had to be supported upon a retaining wall fourteen feet in height, the whole, however, resting upon the natural ground, and as I imagined a secure foundation. However, subsequently to a heavy fall of rain on the 28th May, when no less than nine inches fell, a settlement was observed in the north-west angle of the building, and on the same day a considerable slip of ground at the base of the hill occurred. On a careful examination of the surface I found it to be cracked in a variety of places, and with each succeeding

shower further slips occurred; these continued to advance until the 19th June, when a slip more extensive than the former so far injured the hill that no less than half an acre was ruptured in such a degree as to force over the retaining walls at its base, and destroy some premises adjoining, whereby one man was killed and others injured. This slip naturally affected the school-house, and in so great a degree that it was considered advisable to pull it down to save the materials; accordingly these were sold by auction on the 4th September, producing the sum of 41*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and before the whole were removed the greater portion of the site was destroyed.

Arrangements were accordingly made for the prevention of further damage to the hill by the resumption of all the ground unbuilt upon so as to stop further cuttings at its base, and a report and estimate has been submitted for rendering it more permanently secure, and so as to save the upper part of Hollywood Road.

The debtors jail, Report and Estimate, No. 5, of 1851, was completed during the year, and I trust it will be considered useful, and supply all the wants such a building is required to provide for; expenditure amounted to 248*l.*, a balance, however, remained upon the contract amounting to 78*l.* 5*s.* which I have exacted as a fine for non-completion of the work according to the proper time; the contractor gave me the greatest possible trouble and tried every means in his power to scamp his work, but I am happy to say the whole as finished is as complete and substantial as I could wish.

The erection of the treadwheel under Report and Estimate, No. 5, of 1853, was completed during the year, and although the work was one of considerable difficulty, it acts remarkably well, and is easily regulated to suit one or ten men if placed upon it. The power is, however, applied to no useful purpose.

Police station at Wongneichung, Report and Estimate, No. 19, of 1853 was completed, it provides accommodation for three Europeans, six Indians, and one Chinese constable; it has been satisfactorily executed, and now that there is an almost certain prospect of a town springing up in the immediate vicinity, it is satisfactory to find that the position has been well chosen. Payment on this account was made amounting to 135*l.*

Boat-houses for the harbour master and police, Report and Estimate, No. 20, of 1833, which provided for the accommodation of the crews also was finished during the year, and payment of balance due was made amounting to 238*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* This work has been satisfactorily performed, and I have no doubt it will be found suitable, and provide for all the present wants of the service.

The Post Office had a thorough repair during the year, under the authority of Report and Estimate, No. 22, of 1853, payments on account of which amounting to 132*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* were made. The course of this repair and the mode of carrying it into effect were explained in my last report.

Trivial repairs to sundry Government buildings, amounting to 8*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, were made under Report and Estimate, No. 24.

At the town of Stanley, the police station was repaired, and the roof raised, and the whole better ventilated and drained, under the authority of Report and Estimate, No. 2, of 1854, for an expenditure of 20*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

Repairs to the magistracy were effected under Report and Estimate, No. 27, of 1853, amounting to 19*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*

Upon some of the public roads, trees to a limited extent were planted, Report and Estimate, No. 1, of 1854, and payments made amounting to 15*l.*, this service is extended as circumstances appear to demand annually.

Upon the alteration which took place by placing a police instead of a military guard at the gaols, it became necessary to provide a kitchen, the latter guard not requiring one, it did not form part of the plan for the guard-house; the service was executed for 10*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* under Report and Estimate, No. 8, of 1854.

Repairs to the police stations in Victoria, under Report and Estimate, No. 26, of 1853, amounted to 10*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

A variety of services, which, strictly speaking, are of a miscellaneous nature, I am obliged to charge either under the head of "construction" or "repair;" and under that of the former, for buildings account, I made payments amounting to 19*l.* 17*s.*, requisitions Nos. 2, 3, and 8 for protection to Government buildings, the purchase of flags, watchmen, coolie hire, &c.; under the latter head, upon requisitions Nos. 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11, I made a variety of repairs to the following buildings:—Government offices, police stations, gaols and governor's residence,—amounting in the aggregate to the sum of 57*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* Thus the total payment made on account of buildings, whether under construction or repair, amounted to the sum of 4,589*l.* 5*s.* 9½*d.*

Drains.

Under Report and Estimate, No. 12, of 1853, I constructed a drain on the steep slope of the hill from Government House Road to Albert Road, for the sum of 60*l.* This drain carries a large body of water from the upper level, and was intended to preserve the heavy embankment adjoining from injury by the fall of water over its surface. The service was effected with considerable difficulty, as it was made over treacherous soil, partly in cutting and partly in filling, and, as was anticipated, it received some damage before it was finally completed. It is placed at an angle of 60 degrees, and the velocity of the water is consequently excessive. I have reduced the quantity of water that formerly found exit there, and thus lessened the danger of failure.

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Some covered drains in the Lower Bazaar, estimated at 51*l.* 9*s.* 7½*d.*, were commenced, and an expenditure under report and estimate made, amounting to 34*l.* 4*s.* 4½*d.*: but in consequence of the unconsolidated state of the new ground in which they were to be placed, I have not yet completed the service.

The Queen's Road, from the barracks to the Albany Godowns, extending over a length of 1,565 yards, had side channels placed thereto, at an expenditure of 166*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, by which the surface drainage has been materially improved, and the district much benefitted.

The total expenditure on account of drains for the year, amounted to 260*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.*

Roads.

The road from Aberdeen Street to the Aberdeen Road, and on to the naval stores, commenced in September 1853, under Report and Estimate, No. 21, of 1853, was not completely finished at the termination of the year; for during the summer I found it impracticable to carry on the work, in consequence of the failure of some embankments, retaining walls, and drains; I accordingly thought it desirable to suspend the works, that the material might have time to consolidate. On the termination of the rains the work was proceeded with; but the contractor being unable to finish the work to my satisfaction, the balance unpaid upon the contract was exacted as a fine for non-completion of the works up to time, and authority given to me to expend it in the completion of the service, as well as to devote the balance due on the estimate to the further improvement of the drainage works in connexion therewith, as the experience of the rainy season showed that that was absolutely necessary for the preservation of the road.

The payments on account amounted to 143*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance of 73*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* to be expended as above.

The Government portion of the sea wall in the Lower Bazaar, Report and Estimate, No. 3, of 1853, was completed during the year, and payments made to the amount of 131*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* An unappropriated balance of 30*l.* remains upon the estimate, which I considered advisable to retain in hands for emergencies, as, from the nature of the foundation, I anticipated some degree of settlement; and this has actually occurred to the extent of two feet in depth in one place, where the water was no less than twelve feet deep at low tide. This settlement having now abated, I am enabled to bring the wall up to its intended level. In connexion with this work, and the remainder of the district, surface drains were commenced; but in consequence of the unconsolidated state of the material, I could not complete them. A payment of 5*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* only was made on this head, under Report and Estimate No. 4 of 1853, leaving a balance of 22*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* for the completion which is now in course of execution.

A small payment was made for work in the repair of the Queen's Road West, Report and Estimate, No. 15, of 1853; which service had been completed, however, before the termination of the year.

The Sukunpu Road was repaired during the year at a cost of 34*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, and has been kept in very good order during that period.

A balance due for the repair of the Coast Road to Quarry Bay, amounting to 8*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, was made during the year, together with the sum of 40*l.*, under Report and Estimate, No. 9, of 1854 for current repairs; the account for which is not closed. The road suffered but little injury from the heavy gales of the summer; the surface is in satisfactory order; and the drains perfect in every respect. The total expenditure under this head amounted to 367*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

Convicts.

Repairs to the plant or tools of the convicts were made for an expenditure of 20*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* A very large amount of work, however, for this service has been performed by the convicts themselves within the gaol.

Convict Labour.

The labour performed by the convicts has been of the usual character in the formation and repair of roads, and has comprised the labour of 599 men in scavenging in the city, under the police on duty in some of the districts; in the repair of roads and streets, 6,263 men, and in the formation of roads to Government House, 6,125 men; in repairing and cleansing drains, 241 men; in removing materials from the Albany Godowns, for the purpose of making drains within the gaol, 378 men; and for services of a miscellaneous character, 1,346 men; forming a total of 14,952 men, the value of whose services I estimate as follows, at the rate of 5*d.* per day:—

			£	s.	d.
Scavenging	599	at 5*d.*	12	9	7
Construction of roads	6,125	„	127	12	1
Repairs to roads	6,263	„	130	9	7
Drains	241	„	5	0	5
Removing building materials	378	„	7	17	6
Miscellaneous	1,346	„	28	0	10
			£311	10	0

This amount of labour has been executed under my personal superintendence. Within the gaol, however, a far larger and less profitable number of men has been employed under the inspection of the gaoler; the labour, as far as it goes, is in some respects valuable. I obtained a large supply of broken stones for the repair of roads, and in this service the gaoler's return gives a total number 11,847 men; but the quantity of stone broken was very small indeed for that number; the stone available, however, was large, and consequently required considerable labour to break it to the size necessary for our roads.

The value of this labour I estimate at 120*l.*

	£	s.	d.
Cooks and water carriers amounted to 3,650 men, expressing a value of work, if performed by free labour, equal to	71	17	6
Picking oakum, 5,693 at 2*d.*	47	8	10
Carpenters and blacksmiths, 604 at 1*s.* 2*d.*	30	4	0
Breaking stones as above	120	0	0
	£369	10	4

So that no less than 21,794 men have been kept to hard labour within the gaol. The class of men confined for simple imprisonment, debt, those on the treadwheel, and the sick, amounted to 19,339, from whom no effective labour whatever has been derived.

The total value of labour as estimated by me as performed by convicts, is—

	£	s.	d.
Outside the gaol	311	10	0
Within the gaol	369	10	4
Total	£681	0	4

The coolies of the department, when not in attendance upon me in surveying or in other occupations, have had their labour turned to account as follows:—In planting trees, 494 days; in supervision of public works under contract or otherwise, 236 days; repairing roads, 20 days; clearing drains, &c., 158 days, and sundry services, 18 days, all of which work would otherwise have been obliged to be paid for, and consequently it may be presumed they have earned the value of their wages, which amounts to 37*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

Recapitulation of expenditure and value of services performed:—

	£	s.	d.
Buildings	4,589	5	9½
Drains	260	10	3½
Roads	367	2	8½
Convicts tools	20	13	1
Total expenditure	£5,237	11	10½
Convict labour — £681 0 4			
Department coolies — 37 10 0	718	10	4
Actual value of all services	£5,956	2	2½

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. ST. GEO. CLEVERLEY,
Surveyor General.

(True copy.)
W. SIMON,
Colonial Secretary.

Surveyor General's Office,
Victoria, March 28, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit my annual report upon the progress of my department for the year 1854 for the information of the honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

The supervision of Government House and the works in connexion with it occupied a very large share of my attention, and the extreme difficulty I have had with the contractor in forcing him to use more expedition and employ a greater number of men has been excessive: his pecuniary losses I believe, are considerable, and this coupled with the rise in the price of labour and of all building materials has added to his losses, and in a measure prevented the completion of the work; for instance, during the greater part of the year but little lime has reached the colony from the neighbourhood of Canton, and the supply has been made almost entirely from the kilns on the opposite Cowloon shore, and for which an exorbitant price was demanded.

Fortunately, before the blockade I obtained nearly all the marble tiles I required, the deficiency, however, I have supplied by slate and stone. The earthenware railings for

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the verandah I am still unable to get from Fushan, where such articles are made, and I have totally failed in procuring gypsum for the fine mouldings and enrichments of the cornices and ceilings; thus I have been obliged to alter the designs in a material degree, which I much regret. However the work, slowly as it has progressed, is admirably executed, and is perhaps as perfect a building as can be erected in China.

Unfortunately, at a time when I required the most efficient superintendence, the sappers attached to the department were ordered home, and at the end of August I was deprived of their services altogether. The want of these men I have felt greatly, particularly in all plumbers and bellhangers work (at which the Chinese are very deficient), so that my personal superintendence upon each particular piece of work during its execution was rendered absolutely necessary, and thus occupied my time for several hours of the day occasionally.

The supply of water to Government House and offices was originally undertaken by the Royal Engineers' department, and transferred to me to complete, but unfortunately the pipes delivered for the service were insufficient; nor were there any stopcocks, fireplugs, or suitable curved pieces or junctions such as were estimated for and required, and as these cannot be made here in a satisfactory or substantial manner, the difficulties in executing the work have been very great indeed; however, no doubt the service when complete will answer effectually; but before it can do so some further works are necessary to increase the supply of water or prevent waste at the barracks; this, however, must form the subject of a special report and estimate, as I am afraid the balance of the estimate for that service will be insufficient, as nothing but a supplementary tank will provide for the deficiency.

As regards the supply of water to the gaol also similar difficulties occurred, and it was by a mere accident that I obtained a supply of iron pipes such as I required, but the stopcocks I was obliged to cast in copper, and attach lead pipes for turns and junctions in situations where only iron should be used; indeed throughout the whole the difficulties have been greater than could be imagined by an unprofessional person, from the want of those materials which, had I had time, might have been procured from England.

The principal tanks situated in Mr. Lyall's grounds are at an elevation sufficient to command all the streets in the town, and when the pipes as demanded from England arrive, they may be laid down immediately as proposed for the conduct of water in case of fire; in connexion with this service I should be happy to commence the other tanks proposed in various places in the city for the storage of water, but not having the proper pipes to build into them for supply and exit, and there being no cement in the city either, the service cannot be further proceeded with at present.

The want of water in the whole of the city during the dry season is very great indeed, and as the population increases and the drainage becomes more rapid and effective, this deficient supply is more apparent and severely felt, so that at no distant period I imagine it will be incumbent upon the Government to collect the streams west of the city for the use of the dense population in the Lower Bazaar and Tappingshan, as in the former district well water cannot be used for domestic purposes, and in the latter the tenants are unable to afford pecuniary means to construct them so as to be generally useful to the community.

Some works for the drainage of parts of the Queen's Road, Eastern District, were carried into effect, and although the general intention was merely to provide for the discharge of rain water, the drains have been used for purposes to which only covered sewers are applicable, and this being the case it is not surprising if, during the dry season particularly, the filthy deposit from the Chinese houses should become most offensive; again, in places where the police compel the tenants to sweep the drains in front of their houses, the evil resulting from that is perhaps in the end worse than the former, for they invariably deposit the refuse sweepings of their shops, wood shavings, masticated sugarcane, and rubbish of every possible kind, into the small drains in connexion with the sewers, so that they become blocked up, and when they are most required they are inefficient.

This practice I have in vain tried to rectify, and until a more stringent and summary process is made legal the evil will not be abated.

As regards the drainage of the lower bazaar, about which complaints have been made, the causes enumerated above refer in a more remarkable degree, for there the streets are perfectly level; the whole area has been reclaimed from the sea, and the drains are all built upon unconsolidated ground, and settlements occur which I have rectified as soon as possible; but the great cause of mischief to the drainage here lately has resulted from the practice of discharging rubbish over the sea-wall, and to this the attention of the police has repeatedly been drawn; but as the "force" is small the practice has not been abated in any degree that I can perceive, and it is with the utmost difficulty I have been enabled to keep the drains free, as when once the mouth of the drain is blocked up the deposit accumulates to such a degree that nothing but its removal by hand is of any avail; it being understood that there is in all the drains in the whole district of Victoria an insufficient quantity of water passing through them, there is no means at my disposal for flushing them periodically, and it is only in the height of the rainy season that this is effectually done by the flood water.

Thus, whatever may be the appearance of the town and whatever may be the apparent

defects in portions of its drainage, it must not be placed to insufficient construction, but to the causes enumerated above; and when these are remedied, and the filthy customs of the Chinese are in some degree abated, that district thickly as it is populated may become as clean as any other in the city. I must, however, remark that with the increased number of buildings, increased drainage is demanded as well as a more perfect construction of streets, some of which, although having houses therein, have never been drained or even formed; this, however, the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor has taken into consideration, and I am at this date preparing reports and estimates for the whole of such services as I consider imperatively necessary for the improvement and health of the city; and I trust they will be carried into effect now that the prosperity of the colony is increasing so rapidly.

During the year two land sales have been held, comprising an area of four acres, producing a rental of 492*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, and premium 5,650 dollars; and as only six small lots were resumed during the year, yielding an aggregate rental of 23*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, the rent roll amounted to 11,250*l.* 6*s.* 1½*d.*

It was apparent, however, at the termination of the year, that the demand for land was steadily increasing, and this has been fully proved by the result of subsequent sales.

It is a question now of very considerable importance, in which direction to extend the city; there is little or no really available ground for the erection of such houses as the Chinese require in the rear of the city, as the ground is so steep, and thus the extension of the city westwards is what I most strenuously advocate, as it gives us a more extended sea frontage, which is of such vast importance, and in its rear is a large vacant area of 100 acres, and though rough and rocky is of suitable inclination for streets, and in no way inferior to the space upon which the present city is erected. Unfortunately, however, the proposed erection of a battery at the west end of the city interferes with this scheme, which I much regret, as I feel convinced an equally suitable site for a battery is obtainable, viz., at the old battery at the naval stores; it was the point originally determined upon for the defence of the western entrance to the harbour, and if such a work is really required I confess I should prefer seeing it erected there, as from its position it would command not only the entrance referred to but have an extensive range of the harbour to the eastward; whereas the battery in its present position has a mass of houses on its immediate right, and is thus prevented from employing its fire in that direction; however, this is a subject for the consideration of the Government.

Should this area not be devoted to the extension of the city, my attention has been turned to the necessity of concentrating it; and with this view I think it desirable to make a further addition, by the reclamation of the ground from the sea in front of the Bonham Strand, and to cut down the hill called Possession Point. This hill stands on a base of about 300 feet square; and the whole of this space is occupied by one single house—a police station. By the removal of the hill, accommodation might be provided for upwards of a hundred houses; and with the extension of the land seawards, an additional frontage of 1,800 feet is obtained, which would give in a double row 240 houses, or 340 houses in all—giving accommodation to at least 3,000 Chinese. The hill would be cut down for nothing; the former area would be sold by auction, and an assessment would fix the rate for permission to the tenants to extend their frontages, and occupy the latter.

If neither of these plans can be carried into effect, measures must be adopted for the establishment of a town east of the Albany Godowns. A portion of this area I have attempted to sell on two occasions, but with no satisfactory result. A few houses are built in the neighbourhood, but are occupied by boat builders, and people of no wealth or benefit to the colony.

On this area, however, the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to form the necessary streets preparatory to the next land sale, and this service also engages my attention.

The duties of the department, in carrying into effect the public works during the year, are fully set forth in my report upon that subject.

Within the office I had, in consequence of the absence on leave of the accountant and clerk of deed registry, nearly the same difficulties to contend against as reported last year. Mr. Reinhard, who then held the acting appointment, was removed to the Treasury on the 30th April, and until the month of October I had merely the services of a young lad who had never been in any office before, and however willing he might have been to execute his duties in such a satisfactory manner as he or I could wish, was unable to do so; neither his education nor abilities permitted it. I cannot, however, but express my satisfaction at the desire he always evinced to comply with the requirements of the office and accede to all my wishes.

At this period Mr. Power, the regular clerk, arrived and resumed his duties; the arrears he had to bring up were very considerable, as indeed in the keeping of the office books I was obliged merely to post up such services as were actually necessary, and keep all the current work distinct therefrom, as with such a variety of changes as I had during Mr. Power's absence it was impossible to effect the work with any accuracy or satisfaction. To execute this service, and at the same time carry on the ordinary increasing work of the office, was a task by no means inconsiderable, and I have now, as in all former reports, to express my entire approbation of his conduct.

The transactions in land, as registered in the office, are as follows:—49 memorials of absolute sale of property, affecting 57 lots; 14 memorials affecting mortgages on 25 lots;

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8 assignments affecting 11 lots; 2 judgments of Supreme Court; in the whole 73 memorials referring to 93 lots, being ten more than were registered last year.

The fees for the above registries as received amounted to 108*l.* 15*s.*, and fees for the issue of leases to 49*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

In the month of June the burial ground was again placed under my charge, with Mr. Buchan as secretary, at the usual salary.

A new scale of fees was also established on the 2d December 1854, as published in the Gazette, and for the whole year the total amount due for 122 interments and the erection of four monuments amounted to the sum of 119*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

The Chinese overseer and four coolies (one being a messenger or office coolie) attached to the department performed their usual avocations to my entire satisfaction; the labour of three of them, when not in direct attendance upon me, is fully set forth in my Report upon Public Works. I find their services of much value, and indeed absolutely necessary to enable me to execute the duties of my office unassisted as I am by any competent European. The overseer is now well instructed in all operations in surveying and in such like operations; and his duty is to report such services as are required to the roads or public works, and bring to my notice such encroachments or other irregularities as may be perceived by him, as well as to give a daily report of number of men employed on all public works, whether under contract or otherwise, including that of the convicts both within and without the gaol walls.

The supervision of the convicts labour has, as usual, been performed by me, and as the amount of their work has been reported on, I have but to remark that I consider it would be more advantageous to the public service if the sentences of the magistrates to hard labour within the gaol were considerably reduced, as that class do not perform such effective service as those employed on the roads. I require a large amount of broken stone certainly, but if this service was performed by task-work I am convinced that one-half of those working inside the gaol last year would have broken as much stone as the whole number, and thus placed at my disposal the labour of at least 5,000 men; since the commencement of the year this has been rectified as far as possible.

The serjeant of the guard, Antonio Mathews, over the convicts on the roads acts as their overseer, has given much satisfaction, and exerts himself to make them perform as much work as possible, and he is improving in the knowledge necessary for the repair or formation of the roads or works he is directed to execute.

I have to report that in consequence of the stringent measures instituted against Mr. Duddell, he proceeded to comply with the terms upon which the market had been granted to him, which consisted in the reclamation of ground from the sea, the construction of a sea-wall, and the erection of a police station, &c., and suitable buildings for the market, none of which services had been carried into effect, to the great inconvenience of the public, but as he is now proceeding with much vigour it is probable he may finish the work in the time set forth in his bond.

I regret to have to allude to the still prevailing practice of burning the brushwood on the hills; it causes incalculable mischief to the whole island, stops the growth of all indigenous trees, and I need hardly say detracts in no inconsiderable degree from the natural beauty and picturesqueness of the districts.

The preservation of the trees, whether planted by Government for the general good, or the natural growth of the island, I conceive should be specially the duty of the police or the tepos of the localities in which these fires annually occur; it perhaps would be impossible to catch the men in the act, but as it is well known who are the parties who do the damage, if they were properly warned as to the consequences, and two or three severe punishments inflicted for removing the charred or burnt brushwood, the evil would be corrected in one season; the healthiness of the island consequent upon the steady increase of vegetation would be materially improved and the temperature considerably reduced.

In the early part of the summer my health suffered very materially from a most peculiar eruptive fever, which confined me to the house for upwards of a month. I attribute this, the only severe sickness I have had during my residence in Hong Kong, to carelessness in exposing myself to the sun, notwithstanding my experience of its danger. I regret to say, however, that each succeeding summer produces its ill effects upon my constitution, for during my service of nearly twelve years in this climate, I have never obtained leave of absence to England, and but once for a period of six weeks to Shanghae; and thus it is perhaps surprising that I should have had such equable health or have been so seldom unable to do my work, considering my duties so frequently call me to perform services out of doors, and with frequent exposures to the sun which no other officer of Government ever has to undertake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. G. CLEVERLEY,
Surveyor General.

(True Copy.)
W. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

SIR, Victoria, Hong Kong, February 16, 1855.

IN compliance with the instructions of the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor contained in your letter No. 406 of December 19, 1854, we have the honour to forward the following report of the Government schools during the past year.

These schools are still five in number: no increase has been made though applications have been forwarded for the establishment of elementary schools in other localities. The school accommodation provided by Government is therefore sufficient for one hundred and fifty children only, and from the returns of the Registrar General we estimate that in private native schools about two hundred and fifty children are under instruction.

The number of Chinese children within the colony is eight thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, and the amount spent by Government in education during the past year was 124*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* sterling.

The average attendance at the Government schools was one hundred and twelve. The Victoria school had thirteen more than its complement; the Wongneichoong school two less; and the others, situated in the out villages, many less. The emolument of the schoolmaster fluctuates with the number of his scholars, while this remains below thirty; above that number, the master has no interest in the increase of pupils.

The Wongneichoong schoolhouse is the only one which is at all suited for its purpose; the rest are hired rooms, most dirty to behold, and most unpleasant to visit.

English is taught in two schools by two Chinese lads, whose united remuneration is five pounds a year. The subjects of instruction are similar to those mentioned in our last report.

Under the present aspect of affairs education in Hong Kong, as aided by Government, may be pronounced at almost its lowest ebb. It has neither the means of present good nor the elements of future advantage. It has neither suitable buildings, suitable masters, nor suitable supervision. As the Government has expressed no intention of originating an efficient scheme and voting the requisite funds, it does not lie within our province to do more than report upon what now exists; and for the improvement of this we think indispensable, first, the building of suitable school houses; secondly, the establishment of paid apprentice teachers; thirdly, the appointment in each school capable of enlargement of an assistant schoolmaster, with a knowledge of the English language, receiving a salary of not less than twenty dollars a month; fourthly, the appointment of an inspector to pay at the least weekly visits to each school, and report to the committee the results of each visit.

We have, &c.
(Signed) G. VICTORIA,
C. B. HILLIER,
JAMES LEGGE,
M. C. ODELL,
Committee for superintending Chinese Education.

(True copy.)

The COLONIAL SURGEON'S REPORT for 1854.

Topography and Climate, &c.

THE nature of the climate and topographical description of Hong Kong require no remark, both having been (I presume) fully detailed in former reports; nor is there now any occasion to describe the position of the several police stations, with the accommodation of each, such being already well known to the authorities.

Hospital.

The hospital situated at the corner of Graham Street, and for some years past in use, was shortly after my appointment as colonial surgeon removed to the present building, as I considered that it did not afford the necessary accommodation, and was further deficient in ventilation and drainage, all of which essential requisites the present building possesses.

Fevers.

The prevalent diseases during the year have been, as usual, fever and bowel complaint. The intermittent fever of this colony is most pertinacious in its attack, any individual having once suffered being liable to a recurrence of the disease, until the constitution is completely sapped and the patient reduced to a state of the most distressing debility. The remittent fever is less frequent but more fatal; it is often the result of the former, but by no means invariably so. During the year many cases occurred, but with the exception of a few fatal ones the disease was amenable to treatment. During the months of October and November the fever of the cold season (an obscure remittent) has been unusually prevalent, difficult to check, and the convalescence slow. This class of disease generally lays the foundation of some organic affection of the abdominal viscera, especially the spleen

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and the liver, the former of which is almost invariably more or less affected, and that after comparatively mild attacks of the primary disease; under such circumstances, no perfect recovery can be expected while the patient remains in the colony.

Hepatic Affections

Have been of a much milder character than last year, and not so prone to run into abscess.

Bowel Affections

Are extremely common in this climate, and, however mild at first, soon assume a most tedious and intractable character. Dysentery, acute and chronic, has in some instances resulted fatally, but the total number and proportionate mortality have been under the annual average. Nothing but change of climate, and that immediate, holds out any hope of restoring the patient's health; but this being in most instances impracticable, the obvious consequence is a large mortality from the disease. Diarrhœa has been very prevalent. Stomatitis has in many instances accompanied it, and been frequent as a separate disease. The chlorate of potash combined with vegetable tonics has invariably cured it.

Pulmonary Affections,

Though not frequent, are still to be met with. This climate, from the frequent and sudden changes of temperature which take place during the cold season, often within a few hours, and the vast disparity between the general temperature of summer and winter, is particularly illfitted for persons with any tendency to disease of the lungs, and fatal to those in which it actually exists.

Rheumatism

In the acute form has also prevailed. Speedy relief has generally been obtained by the local application of leeching, and large doses of the iodide of potass internally.

The juvenile portion of the community, hitherto almost entirely exempt from the prevailing diseases, has suffered to an unusual extent from fever and, one of its most painful and trying sequelæ, boils, the irritation and pain of which are sufficient to test the equanimity of the most stoical. They have also suffered much from intestinal worms and diseases directly produced by the irritation of these parasites in the alimentary canal. On the whole the amount of sickness and mortality may be considered under that of last year. Dnring the hot season, although it set in with much illness, and the range of the thermometer in July was higher than has been noticed for several years, yet no unusual mortality resulted. The increase of sickness during the last three months of the year has been undoubtedly owing to the high range of temperature at mid-day, with the absence of rain.

Small Pox.

The frequent occurrence of epidemics of small pox is a matter urgently calling for the interference of Government. This scourge has again appeared in the island, caused not by any sporadic or isolated cases of the disease, but by the obstinate adherence of the Chinese so-called medical practitioners to inoculation. Of the value of vaccination as a preventative, it is needless for me to urge anything in support. The application of the law of England to this island, prohibiting inoculation of small pox matter under a penalty, would soon put an end to those outbreaks of a pestilence, so dangerous to the whole community, European and native.

Veneeal Affection

Is here of frequent occurrence, and often of a most virulent character. To check the disease in this colony some prophylactic measure is essentially required; but knowing as I do that the present active and zealous Acting Attorney General is preparing a special ordinance on the subject, I lay therefore this important sanitary improvement in his able hands.

Having now given a short summary of the chief diseases of the colony, I shall advert to topics which I consider to be of very great and vital importance, namely, sewerage, drainage, ventilation, and cleanliness; and I do so the more particularly from the very great influx of Chinese, and consequent increase of buildings.

Having carefully examined the streets, lanes, and several of the dwellings of the poorer classes (natives) in Victoria, with a view to sanitary improvement, I beg to submit the following remarks; however, before so doing, I must express my regret that Hong Kong should present so much filth and so many nuisances, the more especially as its site is in many respects well adapted for drainage and sewerage. In carrying out my assertions, it will be only necessary for me to report on the Taipingshan district. The lanes (certainly not streets) are in a most objectionable state, containing almost invariably cowsheds, pigsties, stagnant pools, the receptacles of every kind of filth, all which nuisances have remained unheeded for a considerable time. In this district are two large open

drains, which are at all times most offensive. These drains receive all the refuse of the district through which they pass, and being open through most of their course (excepting when they cross a road) filth of all sorts is thrown into them, and necessarily evaporates deleterious gases from their entire surface. The premises situated at the west end of the Hollywood Road are in a filthy state, and great complaints are made of the offensive effluvia (dripping through the walls) by almost every European passer-by.

The great want of privies and suitable depots for dirt is observable everywhere the native population reside. Nothing can be more offensive than the laying out to dry of large quantities of manure on small patches of ground in the rear of this locality, and in many instances adjoining the upper or Western Road, the emanations from which not only interfere with the pleasantness of a walk much frequented by the inhabitants of Kong Kong, but must be sources of annoyance to those living in the adjacent neighbourhood. I am, therefore, of opinion that Victoria is in need of drainage and sewerage, of better paving and scavenging.

2. That the dwellings of the natives are faulty in construction, being erected apparently with the view of having the greatest number in the smallest possible space, and without any regard to ventilation and drainage.

3. That disease prevails most where the dwellings are overcrowded, and where little if any attention is paid to cleanliness, ventilation, and drainage.

4. That the inhabitants of lanes and other crowded localities be compelled to whitewash their dwellings at least twice a year, and to make free use of water upon the pavements and channels every morning.

5. That the absence of sanitary measures in Hong Kong leads to the development and dissemination of disease. It is well known that damp and dirt, nuisance of all kinds, and particularly animal and vegetable matter in a state of decomposition, are circumstances that favour the propagation of disease; whatever renders the atmosphere impure impairs the health and predisposes the body to disease, and when numbers of sick are crowded together in close, dirty, and unventilated rooms, disease spreads with virulence and malignity.

I shall conclude these few remarks by a statement of Dr. Arnott:—"Aerial movements "are to man what the constant gliding past of a clear river stream is to fishes which "inhabit it; and as certainly as we should destroy the trout of a stream by confining them "in a small portion of the watery element until it became a dirty puddle, so should we "destroy or injure human beings when we too closely confine around them a portion of "the aerial element."

(Signed) J. Carroll Dempster, M.D.,
Colonial Surgeon.

LABUAN.

No. 39.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Scott to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell.

(No. 6.) Government House, Labuan, June 26, 1855.

My Lord, (Received, September 6, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this colony for the past year. It has been delayed beyond the usual period from the treasurer having been unable to furnish, at an earlier date, a statement of the revenue and expenditure, in consequence of the agents at Singapore having omitted to forward their accounts with this government for the last quarter of the year.

2. I have endeavoured to confine the expenditure, in accordance with instructions, to the lowest possible amount, and to disbursements absolutely necessary.

3. I regret that the local revenue has fallen short of the amount I had anticipated in the annual estimates for the year by a sum of 627*l.* This deficiency will be found under the head of royalty on coals; the company working the mines having failed to excavate the 12,000 tons I had reckoned upon. In the previous year 1853, they excavated and paid royalty upon 8,108 tons, in 1854 only 5,545 tons. In my former despatches I have always had occasion to complain of the tardy operations of the company; it is right, therefore, that I should now explain that I do not attribute their short-comings to any want of exertion on their part, but rather to the unfortunate and sudden death of their resident engineer and director at a time he was actively engaged in carrying on works necessary for a more extensive working of the mines, and

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to the consequent long time the mines remained without proper supervision before his successor arrived from England.

4. I regret to report that the depredations which the Illanun pirates annually commit along the coast of Borneo to the north of Labuan have been greatly extended. Formerly they did not cruise nearer than Meng Kabong, but during the past year they ventured to the south of Labuan, and attacked prahus within a few miles of us, and for a time put a stop to all native trade. It has always been a source of regret to me that the withdrawal of all naval force from Labuan has given increased audacity to these pirates, and permitted them to carry on with impunity their cruelties on the unoffending natives of peaceable trading rivers.

5. During the past year fever and ague has been somewhat prevalent, but the general healthiness of the settlement has not been unfavourable.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. SCOTT.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 40.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 40.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Rennie to the Right Honourable Sir George Grey Bart.

(No. 9.) Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands, January 31, 1855.

(Received, April 13, 1855.)

Sir,

The Blue Book of this colony, which I have the honour to enclose, exhibits a continuance of the progressive improvement which has prevailed during the last five years.

2. The exports in 1852 only reached to about 8,000*l*; in 1853 to 14,500*l*., and in the year just ended may be estimated at nearly 19,000*l*; the imports in those years respectively were 16,000*l*., 19,000*l*., and 21,000*l*; the balances being met by bills on Her Majesty's Treasury, on account of the sums voted by Parliament in aid of the local revenue, payment of pensions by the War Office, and specie imported by settlers.

3. The general revenue shows only a small increase of 67*l*., but the net expenditure has been 540*l*. less than that of 1853. Notwithstanding this reduction, I have been enabled to defray the colonial charge of the permanent guard of enrolled pensioners, amounting to 80*l*., and likewise the cost (90*l*.) of the construction of a wooden house required for the accommodation of the lighthouse keeper at Cape Pembroke, neither of these items having been included in my estimate.

4. I have to report the completion of the iron lighthouse, and on the arrival of the keeper from England it will be illuminated. I trust that this important work may prove a great benefit to shipping of all nations, and a source of prosperity to the colony, indicating, as it will, by night and day, the situation of Stanley Harbour, the only inhabited port of refuge in the great track of communication between the Eastern and Western hemispheres.

5. The measures which are about to be taken by Her Majesty's Government for the more effectual protection of the fisheries around the coasts of these islands from depredation by foreigners give me good reason to hope that the settlers will not be wanting in enterprise to derive advantages from their improved prospects in those pursuits.

6. The colony is abundantly supplied with all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life. From various causes, however, prices have risen from 20 to 30 per cent., which, with the increased income tax, presses rather heavily on the officers of the local Government, whose salaries are very limited.

7. Labour is in good demand, artizans earning from 6*s*. to 12*s*. per diem; unskilled workmen, 4*s*. to 7*s*. In cases of salvage from wrecks, or urgent repairs of ships, double these wages are occasionally obtained. The operatives are

thus enabled to provide themselves with every reasonable comfort, and in many cases to lay aside considerable sums of money; nor is it any exaggeration to say, that a stranger seeing them on holidays with their families might doubt whether there are (judging from their dress) any working people in the colony. Pauperism is entirely unknown.

8. Having now exceeded the usual period of a colonial Governor's appointment, and being on the eve of departure, it gives me much satisfaction to be able to adduce some confirmation of the opinions I formerly expressed, of the capabilities of these islands. When it is considered that up to the year 1850 the few inhabitants subsisted on ship-of-war rations sent annually from England, —that there was neither cultivation nor trade,—that the climate and soil were sufficiently bad to deter the usual class of emigrants from resorting to them, their only resource consisting of a few wild cattle (for the fisheries had been nearly destroyed),—the progress which has been made during the last four years proves that the Falkland Islands have great advantages and utilities, from their geographical position, which are susceptible of development, and the energy of the settlers gives me favourable anticipations of continued improvement. I have only to add, that the benefits which are secured to British commerce by this possession (in my opinion) repay the grants of Parliament expended on the establishment of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE RENNIE.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

PART VI.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

MALTA.

No. 41.

MALTA.

No. 41.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir WILLIAM REID to Lord PANMURE.

(No. 65.)

Palace, Valletta, May 30, 1855.
(Received, June 15, 1855.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the Year 1854, together with a copy of a statement by the Auditor General upon the revenue, expenditure, and financial condition of Malta and its dependencies during that year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM REID,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Panmure, K.T.,
&c. &c. &c.

The AUDITOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT of the Financial Condition of Malta, to accompany the Blue Book for the Year 1854.

Revenue.

The following view is offered of the gross revenue of Malta received during the five years immediately preceding the one to which the present statement relates:—

1849	£126,298	Yearly average, £127,941
1850	129,293	
1851	133,080	
1852	127,718	
1853	123,305	
Fractions	1	

2. During the year 1854 the gross collection of revenue amounted to 123,771*l.*, being 4,170*l.* less than the before stated average; and though it somewhat exceeded the collection of 1853, it cannot be viewed, on the score of regular income, in a favourable comparison with that year, which was less aided by extraordinary branches than were brought to account in 1854. This will be seen in the following comparison of the proceeds derived from the undermentioned sources—

	1853.	1854.
Land sales	£1,879	£3,789
Sale of Government property	270	2,205
Proceeds of unclaimed effects	—	345
Agio on specie	—	673
	£2,149	£7,012

More in 1854 £4,863

3. Of these receipts, the sales in 1854 include 3,639*l.* for certain building sites at Floriana, previously waste ground, the proceeds to be applied to the expense of removing individuals from tenements occupied by them in parts of the lines of fortification, and 1,800*l.* from the Ordnance department, for a large building at Floriana, hitherto occupied in the service of the public schools, and to be replaced by a new building for schools, now in the course of erection out of the money acquired from the sale of the former building.

4. On the other hand it is to be noted, that the collection of rents for 1854 has suffered a deduction of 1,154*l.* for balance of abatements made in consideration of the loss sustained by the tenants from the failure in the native harvest of 1853, against the rents of which year as much only of the loss

could be classed as found room in the uncollected portions of rent, leaving the balance over for adjustment against rents afterwards to fall due. Hence the revenue of 1854 is to be considered 1,154*l.* better, and that of 1853, 1,154*l.* worse, than is shown by the collections made within the respective years.

5. The place in which the principal cause of decrease in the revenue is to be seen is the customs, the receipts of which are 5,447*l.* less than 1853. Such cause is the continued dearness of corn, which has transferred much of the consumption from wheat, subject to the higher rate of import duty, to barley, on which the lower rate is levied, and has also greatly reduced the consumption of wine among the labouring classes, with the consequent loss of import duty on the article.

6. In the Courts of Law the receipts have been 889*l.* above those of 1853, consequent upon increased business.

Expenditure.

7. In the general estimate of expenditure, prepared in 1853, for the service of the year 1854, a provision of 128,086*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* was made. To this was added a balance of 22,246*l.* 1*s.* 0¼*d.* remaining unexpended at the end of 1853 from the provision on previous estimates; and in the course of 1854 supplemental appropriations were made to the amount of 3,958*l.* 3*s.* Besides these, 1,800*l.* were obtained from the sale of a building, and 3,639*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* from the sale of building site, respectively applicable to the services already described in noticing the revenue. In all, 159,730*l.* 0*s.* 3¼*d.* at disposal for expenditure.

8. The total sum actually disbursed within the year out of this provision was 141,303*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* (being 6,270*l.* more than the outlay of the previous year), 1,495*l.* 13*s.* 3¼*d.* have been written off as unavailed of or saved, and 16,930*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* remain for future outlay.

Financial Condition.

9. A further detail than what has been here given will be found in the comparative statements of revenue and expenditure as prepared by the Auditor General.

10. The year closed with the following state and liabilities of the island treasury:—

State of the treasury of Malta, 31st December 1854.

		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Effects -	cash -	49,368	12	3¾	76,987	11	3¾
	advances -	27,618	19	0			
Debts -	deposits	-	-	-	46,718	11	10¾
	Surplus capital -				30,268	19	5
Liabilities:—							
The revenue of December, reserved to meet the expenditure of that month payable in January 1855 - -		8,507	17	1¾			
The portion of expenditure remaining undefrayed, as already stated -		16,930	11	2			
					25,438	8	3¾
	Available surplus				£4,830	11	1¼

Audit Office, Valletta,
April 23, 1855.

(Signed) W. H. Thornton,
Auditor General.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the estimated Revenue of Malta for the Year 1854, with the Revenue received in that Year, as shown by the Accounts made up from the 1st January to the 31st December 1854.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts. Estimated.	Amounts. Received.	Above the Estimate.	Below the Estimate.	Remarks.
Customs—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Import Duties	81,888 0 0	69,991 11 1	- - -	11,896 8 11	Compared with the receipts in 1853, the decreases under these three heads are respectively 4,626*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, 370*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and 450*l.* 5*s.* See note (*a*).
Tonnage Dues	4,691 0 0	5,420 3 6	729 3 6	- - -	
Store-rent	1,141 0 0	1,080 14 4	- - -	60 5 8	
Quarantine Dues	220 0 0	31 6 9	- - -	188 13 3	123*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* less than in 1853, quarantines having nearly ceased.
Land sales	165 0 0	3,789 3 7½	3,624 3 7½	- - -	1,910*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* above the receipts in 1853. See note (*b*) in respect to 3,639*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*
Land revenue	10,745 0 0	9,787 1 3	- - -	957 18 9	An increase of 544*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* as compared with the receipts of 1853.—See note (*c*).
Rents exclusive of land	17,355 0 0	17,310 10 4¼	- - -	44 9 7¾	98*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* less than in 1853.
Licences	1,443 0 0	1,404 15 0	- - -	38 5 0	22*l.* 15*s.* less than in 1853, which included 5*l.* 5*s.* for the former tax on calesses.
Postage	74 0 0	70 16 11	- - -	3 3 1	4*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* below the receipts in 1853.
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court.	5,766 0 0	6,700 6 1½	934 6 1½	- - -	889*l.* 16*s.* 5½*d.* above the receipts in 1853, derived from increased business in the Courts.
Fees of office	480 0 0	523 4 1½	43 4 1½	- - -	98*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.* below the receipts in 1853.
Sale of government property	147 0 0	2,204 15 11	2,057 15 11	- - -	A casual branch, which cannot be estimated by any rule. In respect to 1,800*l.* see note (*b*).
Reimbursements in aid of expenses.	411 0 0	752 6 3¾	341 6 3¾	- - -	188*l.* 14*s.* 11¾*d.* more than in 1853. In respect to 174*l.* 4*s.* 7¾*d.* see note (*d*).
SPECIAL RECEIPTS.					
Rents of pious foundations	2,836 0 0	2,596 6 4½	- - -	239 13 7½	88*l.* 16*s.* 3¾*d.* under the receipts of 1853.—See note (*c*).
Recovery of arrears by the Monte di Pietà.	12 0 0	12 0 0	—	—	———
Interest of money lent by ditto on pledges.	1,060 0 0	1,074 7 1½	14 7 1½	- - -	71*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* below the receipts in 1853.
Proceeds of unclaimed effects of old dates.	- - -	345 1 6¾	345 1 6¾	- - -	Not of a kind to come into particular comparison.
Money restored at confession	- - -	4 3 4	4 3 4	- - -	
Agio on exchange of specie	- - -	673 3 4	673 3 4	- - -	
	128,434 0 0	123,771 17 0¼	8,766 14 11¼	13,428 17 11¼	

Below the estimate 4,662*l.* 2*s.* 11¾*d.* ; and 466*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* above the total receipts in 1853.

(*a*) Notwithstanding the good native harvest which succeeded the previous year of drought, and of which barley is the chief product, the continued dearness of corn has transferred the importation to a large extent from wheat to barley, and much reduced the consumption of inferior wine. On the importation of these articles, as compared with the amounts in 1853, there is a loss of 4,219*l.* in the duty on wheat, another of 3,007*l.* in the duty on inferior wine, set against a profit of 2,948*l.* in the net receipts from the duty on barley and other inferior kinds of grain.

(*b*) These two sums amounting together to 5,439*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* are derived from certain building sites and a government building, and are to be applied to the expense of removing civil tenants from the fortifications, and of erecting another building to supply the place of the one sold.

(*c*) Add to the receipts of 1854 1,154*l.* abated on the rents of this year in consequence of the drought of the preceding one, and the estimate of rents will be found to have been approximately attained.

(*d*) This sum has been reimbursed for the care and accommodation of British and French soldiers on the expedition to the East.—See Note (*b*) on Statement of Expenditure.

WM. H. THORNTON,
Auditor General.

Audit Office, Valletta, 23d February 1855.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the estimated Expenditure of Malta for the Year 1854, and the actual Expenditure of the Year, as taken from the Accounts made up from the 1st January to the 31st December 1854.

HEADS OF SERVICE.	Amounts. Estimated.	Amounts. Disbursed within the Year.	Remaining over for future Disbursement.	Unavailed of, or saved.	Remarks in part Explanation of some of the principal Items of Difference.
Civil Establishments :—	£ s. d.	£ d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
The Governor	5,954 19 7	5,954 19 7	—	—	
Chief Secretary	3,420 16 0½	3,315 1 11½	83 6 8	22 7 5	
Cashier	953 0 0	952 17 0½	- - -	0 2 11½	
Auditor General	1,015 0 0	1,014 16 1	- - -	0 3 11	
Government Press	341 5 0	340 19 1	- - -	0 5 11	
Post Office	127 10 0	119 6 0	- - -	8 4 0	
Customs Department	2,891 7 6	2,885 15 0	- - -	5 12 6	
Port Department	6,597 3 4	6,483 12 10	- - -	113 10 6	100*l.* connected with the excess in the Land Revenue Office.
Land Revenue	1,650 5 9	1,757 15 8¾	- - -	- - -	107*l.* 9*s.* 11¾*d.* exceeded, whereof 100*l.* connected with the saving in the Port Department, and the remainder covered by the provision on the Civil List.
Public Works	1,689 0 0	1,594 12 8	- - -	94 7 4	A reduction in rate of permanent salaries, and incidental remuneration not required to be defrayed to the extent provided for.
Comptroller of Contracts	1,190 0 0	1,138 12 10	- - -	51 7 2	A provision for incidental remuneration not availed of.
Judicial Departments :—					
Superior Courts	6,373 3 8	6,422 6 6	- - -	- - -	49*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* exceeded, from emoluments fluctuating with the receipt of Court Dues.
Crown lawyers	663 7 0	663 7 0	—	—	
Courts of judicial police	1,574 3 0	1,572 18 10	- - -	1 4 2	
Syndics of country districts	645 15 0	645 15 0	—	—	
Courts of the Island of Gozo.	917 19 0	917 18 5	- - -	0 0 7	
Ecclesiastical establishments	1,057 4 0	1,054 14 0	- - -	2 10 0	
Educational establishments	5,205 0 0	5,139 18 10	- - -	65 1 2	Temporary vacancies on the establishments.
Medical establishments	5,050 12 0	5,029 18 2	- - -	20 13 10	
Police, including prisons and gaols.	7,996 16 4	7,976 3 1¾	- - -	20 13 2¼	
Monte di Pietà, including Savings' Bank.	1,263 7 4	1,218 7 4	- - -	45 0 0	Provision for incidental remuneration no availed of.
Agent General in London —See note (*a*).	262 10 0	262 10 0	—	—	
				451 4 7¾	
			Deduct -	156 12 9¾	Exceeded on two heads, as above noted
1. Establishments	56,840 4 6½	56,462 6 0½	- - -	294 11 10	
2. Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities.	16,536 2 10¾	13,744 4 8¾	2,791 18 2	—	
3. Revenue services, exclusive of establishments.	2,954 2 6	2,875 6 2¾	- - -	78 16 3¼	
4. Administration of justice, ditto.	378 2 6	391 11 10¾	- - -	- - -	13*l.* 9*s.* 4¾*d.* exceeded, in consequence of shares defrayed out of a larger receipt from confiscations than was estimated.
5. Ecclesiastical, ditto	92 0 0	71 5 2	- - -	20 14 10	
6. Charitable Allowances	4,000 0 0	3,915 3 9½	- - -	84 16 2¾	
7. Education, exclusive of establishments.	1,003 11 5½	693 12 9	294 4 2½	15 14 6	
8. Hospitals, ditto	12,210 0 0	12,382 0 2	- - -	- - -	172*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* exceeded—See note (*b*).
9. Police and gaols, ditto	1,505 0 0	1,484 5 9½	- - -	20 14 2½	
10. Rent	293 0 0	266 17 8¾	- - -	26 2 3¼	
11. Transport	459 0 0	422 5 5	- - -	36 14 7	
12. Conveyance of mails	40 0 0	32 1 8	- - -	7 18 4	
13. Works and buildings	17,856 6 11	12,847 17 2	4,684 14 8¼	323 15 0¾	185*l.* from works not proceeded with; and the remainder is composed of the surplusses on many estimates.
14. Road, streets, and bridges.	18,623 18 4½	15,580 13 9	2,616 3 1¾	427 1 5½	
15. Miscellaneous services	767 1 3	512 8 5¾	249 8 9	5 4 0¼	
16. Interest	2,861 3 3	3,682 6 1	- - -	- - -	821*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* exceeded—See note (*c*).
17. Contribution towards military expenditure.	6,200 0 0	6,200 0 0	—	—	
18. Burthens on property	1,513 8 0	538 11 2¼	- - -	974 16 9¾	See note (*d*).
19. Drawbacks and refund of duties.	6,058 0 0	5,872 14 9	- - -	185 5 3	
20. Council of government of Malta.	974 12 0	803 10 11	171 1 1	—	
21. Special services under direction of the Secretary of State.	1,576 2 9½	1,374 3 9	201 19 0½	—	
Dis-occupation of places abutting on the fortifications.	6,988 3 10	1,150 8 4¾	5,837 15 5¼	- - -	See note (*e*).
Totals—See note (*f*)	159,730 0 3½	141,303 15 10	16,930 11 2	2,502 5 8	
			Deduct -	1,006 12 4¾	Exceeded on the three heads above noted.
				1,495 13 3¼	Net amount unavailed of or saved.

MALTA.

NOTES.

(*a*) Sums amounting to 4,635*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* were remitted to the agent in London during the year 1854, classed in the above statement as follows:—Establishments, namely, Chief Secretary, 10*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*; Superior Courts, 4*l.* 10*s.*; Educational, 1*l.* 10*s.*; and Agent, 262*l.* 10*s.*; Pensions, 3,212*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*; Revenue Services, 133*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; Charitable Allowances, 18*s.*; Education, 87*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; Hospitals, 124*l.* 12*s.*; Police and Gaols, 329*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*; Council of Government, 200*l.*; and Special Services under direction of the Secretary of State, 268*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*

(*b*) This excess is neutralized by reimbursement, as explained in note (*d*) to the statement of Revenue.

(*c*) A large arrear has been paid, which was duly provided for in the yearly estimates; but remaining unclaimed was written off at the end of each year into surplus revenue. Being authorized by a permanent Legislative Act, and covered by savings on other branches of the yearly estimate, no further provision became necessary in this case.

(*d*) The burthens falling due at the end of the year have hitherto been paid during the last days of December, but have now been transferred to the first days of January, in uniformity with the general system, which requires that the payments falling due for one month should be settled early in the ensuing one. Accordingly, the payment of burthens in 1854 has been confined to those falling due at other periods than the end of the year.

(*e*) Paid and payable out of the proceeds from the sale of certain building sites at Floriana, and of a Government building also at Floriana.—See note (*b*) to the statement of Revenue.

(*f*) The total estimated is formed thus:—51,772*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* out of the provision of 52,273*l.* for the "Civil List," in the terms of the 9th Article of Her Majesty's Instructions to the Governor dated the 11th May 1849; 76,314*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* "Voted Services," in the terms of the Ordinance (of Appropriation) No. IV. of 1853, passed by the Council of Government on the 5th August 1853; 3,958*l.* 3*s.*, Supplemental Voted Services, in the terms of another like Ordinance No. V. of 1854, passed on the 4th August 1854; 22,246*l.* 1*s.* 0¼*d.* reserved from the provision of former years, on last year's comparative statement; and 5,439*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* partly derived from the sale of building sites as described in note (*e*), assigned by resolution of Council passed on the 6th June 1853 to defray the expenses required to cause the evacuation of casemates and premises on or near the ramparts of the four cities including Floriana, and partly from the sale of a government building, the price of which is to be applied for the erection of another building to supply the place of the one sold.

Wm. H. Thornton,
Auditor General.

Audit Office, Valletta, 23d February 1855.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

No. 42.

No. 42.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir John Young, Bart., to the Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, Bart.

(No. 90.)

Corfu, October 20, 1855.

Sir, (Received November 21, 1855.)

I have the honor to forward to you both the original and duplicate copies of the annual financial statement, called the Blue Book for the year 1854, together with the accompanying report.

2. The delay in its transmission this year has been caused by the Ionian Legislative Assembly having called upon the treasurer-general, during its late session, for most voluminous financial statements, which occupied so much of his time that he had none left for preparing those which are annually inserted in the Blue Book.

I have, &c.
(Signed) John Young.

Report on the Blue Book for the financial year ending the 31st January 1854.

Revenue.

The gross amount of the revenue in 1853 was		£130,800
„ „ in 1854 „		137,978
Showing an increase in 1854 of	-	£ 7,178

The items of general revenue showing an increase are—

Olive oil.
Foreign wines and spirits.
Tobacco.
Stamp duties.
Health office.
Post office.
Executive police.
Judicial police.
Mortgage and registration dues.
Miscellaneous.

The increase under the head of olive oil, amounting to 10,563*l.* 16*s.* 2½*d.*, arises from the sale of stock on hand from the year 1853, and the high price of the article in the market.

The increased revenue arising from tobacco, amounting to 331*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, is attributed to a greater quantity of wheat and Indian corn being raised in the island than heretofore, in consequence of their high price, and the proportionate abandonment of the cultivation of the tobacco plant.

The increase in the stamp duties, amounting to 477*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, arises from the use of stamps in the civil magistrate's court being rendered imperative by Act of Government, No. 3. of the 20th March 1854.

The health office receipts have increased 673*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* in consequence of the greater amount of merchandise subjected to quarantine during the year 1854.

The post office shows an increase of 343*l.* 14*s.*, arising from the greater number of letters forwarded through it.

In the executive police the increase of 160*l.* 18*s.* $8\frac{1}{10}$*d.* is derived from the greater number of passports issued, and an increased collection of dues for serving legal process.

The judicial police shows an increase of 379*l.* 11*s.* $6\frac{9}{10}$*d.*, derived from a greater number of cases being brought before the district courts.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

Under the head of "miscellaneous" there is an apparent increase of 3,725*l.* 9*s.* $10\frac{4}{10}$*d.*, arising principally from the temporary stoppage on the salaries of public servants of 10 per cent., in aid of the revenue; and also from an increase in the quantity of flour imported.

The customs shows a decrease of 1,865*l.* 16*s.* $0\frac{1}{10}$*d.* attributable to the present high price of provisions, and the distress felt in the southern islands, in consequence of the failure of the current crop.

The export duty on currants shows a diminution of 4,331*l.* 17*s.* $8\frac{2}{10}$*d.*, caused by the currant blight.

The export duty on wine has diminished by 134*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, in consequence of the vine disease which prevails in these islands.

The loss on the import duty on grain, occasioned by an increase in the price, and the interruption of commerce in the Black Sea, amounts to 2,394*l.* 18*s.* $8\frac{7}{10}$*d.*

Under the head of receipts for public instruction there is a decrease of 294*l.* 7*s.* $11\frac{5}{10}$*d.*, arising from arrears to the amount of 174*l.* having been paid in 1853 on account of the ladies' school, and a falling off in the college receipts during the year 1854.

Expenditure.

Increase.

Under the head of Legislative Assembly there is an increase of 730*l.* 3*s.* $6\frac{4}{10}$*d.*, in consequence of the biennial meeting of the Ionian Legislative Assembly.

Public works show an increased expenditure of 631*l.* 2*s.* $1\frac{9}{10}$*d.*, occasioned chiefly by the employment of a steam dredger in cleaning the Port of Zante.

Under the head of stamps there is an increase of 738*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* for the purchase of paper.

In the executive police there is an increase of expenditure to the amount of 98*l.* 11*s.* $2\frac{4}{10}$*d.*, for the employment of additional civic guards, and in the Courts of Justice of 247*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, in consequence of a greater number of correctional cases than during the preceding year.

Decrease.

Civil Establishment.

Under this head there has been a diminution of 1,259*l.* 5*s.*, which may be partly accounted for by the fact that in 1853 the sum of 800*l.* was paid to the Chevalier Xidian in commutation of his pension.

There has, however, been a real saving in the sanita and police departments, and a diminution of the charge on the pension fund, which accounts for the remainder.

Under the head of judicial establishments there is a decrease of 1,133*l.* 16*s.* $11\frac{9}{10}$*d.*, in consequence of a reduction in the number of judges, Act of Government No. 3, of the 24th November 1852, not having been confirmed by the Assembly.

Education shows a decreased expenditure of 1,030*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, occasioned by an alteration in the system of paying village schoolmasters, so that their salaries may depend in a greater degree upon their exertions; and a diminution in the contingent expenditure.

In the packet establishment there is a diminution of 947*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, occasioned by a smaller consumption of coal, and reductions in the department.

Under the head of contingent expenditure there is a decrease of 3,488*l.* 11*s.* $10\frac{6}{10}$*d.* This decrease appears, principally, on account of the sums paid in 1853 to the Trivoli family, in liquidation of their claims on the Government.

The expenditure for the year	1853 amounted to	£145,003
„	„ 1854 „	139,511
Showing a decrease of	-	5,492

Local Revenue.

The local revenues of the islands for the year 1854 show an increase over the year 1853 of 1716*l.* 3*s.* $9\frac{4}{10}$*d.*

The principal items of municipal revenue showing an increase, are

Water rates in Corfu and Zante, 494*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, occasioned by a resumption of payments by the ordnance department, and arrears collected in Corfu.

Export duty on Zante soap, 324*l.* 17*s.*, arising from an increased exportation to the East.

Port duties, 172*l.* 1*s.* $1\frac{4}{10}d.$, caused by a return of vessels to the Ionian flag in consequence of the disturbed state of the East.

Under the head of arms licences there is a decrease of 285*l.* 18*s.* $7\frac{5}{10}d.$, and of shop and tavern licences, 150*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, in consequence of the licences not being renewed.

On that portion of the general revenue paid for municipal purposes there is a loss of 259*l.* 17*s.* $11\frac{5}{10}d.$, occasioned by the falling off in the customs duties.

There is a decrease in the municipal expenditure of 1,344*l.* 13*s.* $4\frac{7}{10}d.$

Under the head of salaries there is a decrease amounting to 1,012*l.* 2*s.* $11\frac{7}{10}d.$, arising from a diminution in the salaries of the district municipal officers; 534*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* under the head of hospitals and charities; 318*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* for lighting and cleaning the streets; and under the head of "Incidentals" there is a decrease of 2,331*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, occasioned, principally, by the payment in 1853 of 1,960*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* for settlement of litigated claims, and for electoral expenses.

In the road department there is an increase of 1,576*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* for the maintenance and repair of existing roads, and of 893*l.* 3*s.* $10\frac{5}{10}d.$ under the head of prisons, diet, &c., occasioned by a rise in the price of provisions.

Military Contribution.

During the year 1854 the military contribution of 25,000*l.* per annum has been regularly and fully paid.

Judicial Establishment.

The only change has been a reduction in the number of judges appointed to the district courts.

Ecclesiastical.

No alteration has been made in the ecclesiastical establishment during the past year,

There has been no change in the system of public education since last return, with the exception of an alteration in the payment of village schoolmasters, whose salaries have been made to depend in a greater degree on their own exertions than hitherto.

Commerce.

Notwithstanding the blockade of the Russian ports of the Black Sea, with which so much of the commerce of these states is carried on, the amount of both exports and imports in 1854 was considerably greater than in 1853.

Agriculture

Is improving, and extending in the neighbourhood of the towns, and the present high price of grain has tended greatly to extend the cultivation of wheat and Indian corn in all the islands.

Population.

There is a sensible falling off in the population to the number of 1584, as compared with the returns of 1853. This may in a great measure be accounted for by the number of Ionians and Maltese residing in the islands who have gone to the East to seek employment in the army and navy establishments, and as camp followers.

G. F. Bowen,
Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner.

Palace, Corfu,
October 30, 1855.

LONDON:
Printed by George Edward Eyre and William Spottiswoode,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

STATE OF THE KAFFIR TRIBES.

(*In continuation of Papers presented July* 1855.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
6 June 1856.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1856.

SCHEDULE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

DESPATCHES FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Number in Series.	Date and Number.	SUBJECT.	Page.	
1	June 11, 1855 (14.)	GAIKA TRIBES. Their anxiety for employment on Public Works. FRONTIER DISTRICTS. Complete tranquillity of	1	Sir G. Grey.
2	July 14, 1855 (20.)	READINESS OF NATIVES TO SUBMIT TO EUROPEAN MEDICAL TREATMENT - - -	3	
3	July 17, 1855 (101.)	TOUR OF REV. W. SHAW, Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions, through British Kaffraria and Kaffraria Proper. Encloses account of SATISFACTORY STATE OF KAFFIR TRIBES	5	
4	July 19, 1855 (103.)	REPORTING SUCCESS OF MEASURES which have been adopted. 20,000*l.* drawn from Commissariat Chest. Appearance and ravages of a fatal epidemic amongst the cattle. Further letter from Rev. W. Shaw enclosed. Governor about to proceed to frontier, and thence to Natal - - - - - - - -	7	
5	Sept. 19, 1855 (27.)	RETURN FROM BRITISH KAFFRARIA reported. Tranquil and prosperous state of the country. Satisfactory meeting with principal Chiefs. Results of visit to Kaffirs working as labourers at Public Works. Remarks on present state of affairs - - -	9	
6	Nov. 17, 1855 (33.)	Letter from Chief Commissioner of British Kaffraria enclosed. SATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS. Progress made in preparing for the Military Pensioners -	10	
7	Dec. 7, 1855 (134.)	ENROLLED PENSIONERS. Acknowledging Secretary of State's Despatch, stating that scheme could not be carried out (No. 2 of Series). Reports his opinion that the small number of Pensioners who have volunteered should be sent out, for reasons stated - - -	13	
8	Dec. 8, 1855 (Separate.)	STATE AND PROSPECTS OF THE FRONTIER AS A FIELD FOR EMIGRATION - - -	13	
9	Dec. 18, 1855 (46.)	BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. OUTLINE OF SYSTEM to be introduced into British Kaffraria. Correspondence and results of communication with Chiefs enclosed - - - - - -	14	
10	Jan. 16, 1856 (1.)	RETURN OF PUBLIC WORKS IN BRITISH KAFFRARIA performed by KAFFIR LABOUR. Remarks on success of experiment - - - -	34	
11	Jan. 17, 1856 (3.)	ENROLLED PENSIONERS. Village in course of construction at King William's Town - - -	38	
12	Jan. 26, 1856 (4.)	ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. Reporting that two Chiefs have already received the Magistrates appointed, and that several others have expressed their willingness to do so. - - - - - -	40	

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

DESPATCHES FROM SECRETARY OF STATE.

	Number in Series.	Date and Number.	SUBJECT.	Page.
Sir W. Molesworth.	1	Aug. 10, 1855 (8.)	GAIKA TRIBES. Acknowledging Despatch, reporting measures for civilization of, by employment on Public Works - - - - - - - -	43
	2	Aug. 12, 1855 (9.)	SCHEME for introducing into BRITISH KAFFRARIA a body of ENROLLED PENSIONERS, cannot be carried out. Any other plan which he may recommend for protection of Eastern Frontier will be attentively considered - - - - - - - -	43
	3	Oct. 11, 1855 (29.)	TOUR OF REV. W. SHAW through British Kaffraria Proper. Account of, acknowledged with satisfaction -	45
Lord Panmure.	4	Nov. 3, 1855 (40.)	Acknowledging Despatch (No. 4 of Series). Lords Commissioners of Treasury have directed repayment of 20,000*l.*, which he had drawn from Commissariat Chest for the prosecution of his measures - - - - -	45
Right Hon. H. Labouchere.	5	Mar. 20, 1856 (45.)	Acknowledging Despatch (No. 9 of Series), reporting the outline of a system for the BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE in British Kaffraria - -	46
	6	April 1, 1856 (46.)	EMPLOYMENT OF KAFFIRS ON PUBLIC WORKS. Acknowledging with satisfaction his Despatch reporting success of experiment - - - - -	46
	7	April 7, 1856 (50.)	BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. Acknowledging Despatch (No. 12 of Series), reporting steps taken, and concurrence of Chiefs - - -	47

FURTHER PAPERS, &c.

Despatches from Sir George Grey, Bart., K.C.B.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 1.

No 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir GEORGE GREY to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 14, British Kaffraria.)

Government House, Cape Town,
June 11, 1855.
(Received July 17, 1855.)
(Answered No. 8, August 10, 1855, page 43.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your information, copies of a correspondence between the Gaika Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner of British Kaffraria, which the latter Officer has transmitted to me.

Enclosures.
Gaika Commissioner to Chief Commissioner, dated May 30, and 31, 1855.
Chief Commissioner's reply to Gaika Commissioner May 31, 1855.

2. Your Lordship will, I think, learn with pleasure from the enclosed letters, that the plans I had formed for the employment of the Kaffirs on public works are succeeding so well.

3. It was generally imagined, from their warlike disposition, that the men of the Gaika race would not consent to labour. The experiment having, however, been tried, there can now be no doubt that they will form a good class of labourers, and may be converted into useful citizens.

4. They are already flocking to the public works in such numbers that it has been found necessary to reject many applicants, and as the works on which they are first employed are such as will increase the productive resources of the country, and much facilitate agriculture and trade, a great improvement will by these means be shortly effected in the wealth of the country, and in the comfort of its inhabitants. Your Lordship will find that the most warlike chiefs are already so well aware of this, that they are largely turning their attention to agriculture. The result is that the frontier districts are at present in a state of complete tranquillity, and I see no probability of their being immediately disturbed, although necessarily the whole future depends upon an energetic prosecution of those measures, which at present appear to be working so successfully.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Lord John Russell,
&c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Encl. 1 in No. 1.

SIR,

Dohne, May 30, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that a few days since the chief "Tola" came to me to apply for the reception of some of his people into the public works, but as I had then as many people as could be employed with advantage on the works in hand, I was unable to take any of "Tola's" people, but informed him that I hoped soon to extend the works so much that I could employ all applicants. I have already had to refuse more than one hundred applicants, and I understand that many on both sides of the "Kei" who have not yet applied, have been deterred by hearing of the failure of others in obtaining employment.

"Tola" wished me also to make an application for a plough for him, which he says he has the means of using.

I have the less hesitation in making to you this application for his Excellency's favourable consideration, from the fact, that the plough which his Excellency presented to "Sandilli" has already been employed in turning up new ground for next season's crops, and "Sandilli" expresses his determination to cultivate very extensively in the ensuing season.

"Tyala," Sandilli's second councillor, came to see me the week before last: he is very desirous that a watercourse should be made for him. He cultivates the lands formerly used by the people of the Itemba Station, and by the expenditure of 15*l.* or 20*l.* a cut made by Mr. Schulthies, may be made available for Tyala's land.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

"Tyala" expressed great satisfaction with his Excellency's public works, saying he hoped they would be carried on extensively through the whole land, that the Gaikas would thus become attached to their present country and forget their old land.

When the work first commenced, there was a good deal of indirect opposition to it, some of the Councillors saying that if "Sandilli" had a watercourse made for him, he would be virtually renouncing all hopes and desire of getting back his old country, but I am glad to say that this feeling has now given way to a much more satisfactory one.

From the first day that I went to the "Kabusi," Sandilli went with me to the work, remaining there from morning till evening, though one of the days was rainy and very cold, and he thus continues daily to watch the work, with much more interest than I thought he would take in it.

On the morning of the day that I left to come here, "Sandilli" asked me whether the Governor had introduced the public works with the intention of weaning him from his old country, and if his accepting of the work would not be against his getting back the country he formerly occupied?

I replied that his Excellency had given a decided answer with regard to the land: there was no hope of "Sandilli's" ever returning to his old country, and he might rest assured the Governor never would say to him, "you cannot get back the land, because I have made a "watercourse for you."

Before Sir George Grey's arrival, I did not think it prudent to go to great expense in building, and therefore had not the conveniences I required; but since the Governor's arrival, so certain was I that there would be no change, that I had gone to great expense in building such out-houses as I had need of. "Sandilli" said no more, and went down with me to the watercourse, manifesting his usual degree of interest in the work.

I afterwards ascertained that "Sandilli" had been induced by "Umlungazi" to ask the questions he did. "Umlungazi" is an influential councillor, but not favourably disposed to the Government.

Independently of the beneficial results which will arise permanently from the Governor's public works, they are already exciting a favourable influence from the present advantages they confer. There being no sale for cattle, the Kaffirs find it difficult to obtain the articles usually bartered for cattle; they may now obtain those without parting with their cattle, and a market has also been opened for their Kaffir corn, which this season would have been unsaleable, as almost all the stock purchased last season is still on hand.

I have on the works two men from "Sandilli's" own kraal, two from the kraal of his chief councillor, and one from the kraal of his second councillor, besides others from all parts of the country, and I trust soon to have the authority to carry on operations on a much more extended scale.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. BROWNLEE.
Gaika Commissioner.

Colonel Maclean,
Chief Commissioner, Kaffraria.

Encl. 2 in No. 1.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

SIR, Dohne, May 30, 1855.

THE petty chief "Jobi," father-in-law of "Sandilli," and whose fields are divided from "Sandilli's" by the "Kabusi" is very anxious that a watercourse be made for him, and I have informed him that I would lay his application before you for his Excellency's consideration.

I regret that I did not know this before going to Sandilli's, or I would have recommended the undertaking of this work while at Sandilli's, for I could have taken the management of both acts at the same time, being thus enabled to employ a larger number of men, avoiding the necessity of returning to Sandilli's after the completion of his work, and saving the time which I would lose in superintending this work by itself.

Herewith I send an estimate for watercourses for the chiefs "Xoxo" and "Jobi."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES BROWNLEE,
Gaika Commissioner.

Colonel Maclean,
Chief Commissioner, Kaffaria.

Encl. 3 in No. 1.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

SIR, Fort Murray, May 31, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th instant, together with an estimate of the probable expenditure in cutting watercourses for the chiefs "Xoxo" (60*l.*) and "Jobi" (40*l.*) on the Qolancis and Kubasis Rivers, total 100*l.*, and in reply beg to acquaint you that I will lose no time in submitting the same for his Excellency's warrant; in the meantime I hereby authorize you to commence the works at your earliest convenience, as I feel satisfied his Excellency will duly approve of the same, and appreciate the zeal you display in carrying out the spirit of his instructions.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the same date, relative to an application made by the chief "Jola" for a plough, and I beg you may convey to "Jola"

my approval of his request, and you will be pleased to order a plough accordingly, furnishing me with an account, to enable me to obtain his Excellency's authority for payment of the same. CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The watercourse for "Sandilli's" second councillor "Tyala," adverted to in your letter, I also consider very desirable, and request you may proceed with it when convenient; in the meantime you will be so good as to furnish me with an estimate of the probable expenditure in the usual form for transmission to his Excellency.

I have, &c.

Charles Brownlee, Esq., Gaika Commissioner, Dohne Station.

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN, Chief Commissioner.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir GEORGE GREY to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 20, British Kaffraria.)

Government House, Cape Town, July 14, 1855.

(Received September 28, 1855.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a correspondence between the Chief Commissioner of British Kaffraria and the Commissioner of the Gaika tribes, which fully shows the readiness of the natives of Kaffraria to submit themselves to European medical treatment, as also how fully they are aware of the advantages they may derive from such treatment.

Enclosure. Gaika Commissioner to Chief Commissioner, May 30, 1855. Chief Commissioner's reply, June 4, 1855.

I have, &c.

Lord John Russell, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY, High Commissioner.

Encl. 1 No. 2.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

SIR,

Dohne, May 30, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to forward for your consideration the enclosed letter from Doctor Bindon, 6th Regiment.

I have endeavoured to induce as many Kaffirs as possible to place themselves under Dr. Bindon's treatment, as he has expressed his willingness to attend them. Several chronic cases have been effectually cured, as well as many of a less serious nature.

Several of the cases had caused much expense to the patients, by references to Kaffir doctors who professed to extract extraneous substances from the parts affected, and attributing the diseases to witchcraft. No reasoning will be so potent in convincing a man of the deceit practised on him by doctors as the silent but convincing argument of feeling his suffering removed without the extraction of the substances which he believed to be introduced into his system by evil-disposed persons, and the professed extraction of which seldom gives relief.

Dr. Bindon's successful treatment of cases is much talked of in this neighbourhood, and if he should continue to treat cases brought to him, much will be accomplished towards inducing Kaffirs more generally to place themselves under the treatment of European physicians: thus forwarding an object contemplated by his Excellency the Governor, namely, the establishment of hospitals for the reception of Kaffirs. I trust, therefore, that you will be able to recommend to his Excellency the Governor, for his favourable consideration, the enclosed application from Dr. Bindon.

I have, &c

Colonel Maclean, Chief Commissioner, British Kaffraria.

(Signed) CHARLES BROWNLEE, Gaika Commissioner.

A true copy.

(Signed) GEORGE M. SHEPSTONE, Clerk to Chief Commissioner, Kaffraria.

Sub-Encl. in Encl. No 1.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 1.

SIR,

Dohne Post, May 28, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to call your attention to the fact of my having for the last year almost daily attended Kaffirs of the Gaika tribe, in several cases at their own kraals, at some distance from this Post, and most of those patients, you are aware, have been treated by me at your request. I have therefore to beg you will inform me whether there are any funds available in this district as a remuneration for such services, similar to the allowance as district surgeon lately enjoyed by Dr. Sall, and now granted (as I am informed)

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

to Dr. Schools, at King William's Town. Should there be no such funds, will you be good enough to forward this application, together with any remarks you may deem necessary, for the consideration of the Chief Commissioner.

I have, &c.

Charles Brownlee, Esq., Gaika Commissioner, Dohne.

(Signed) H. Veriker Bindon, Assistant Surgeon, 6th Regiment.

A true copy.

(Signed) George M. Shepstone, Clerk to Chief Commissioner.

Encl. 2 in No. 2.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2.

Sir, Fort Murray, June 4, 1855.

In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, I beg you will convey to Doctor Bindon my congratulations on his success among the natives, and I would wish at the same time to bear testimony of the humanity of the medical officers in the army generally in such cases.

The district surgeoncy at King William's Town, and rate of pay (4*s.* per diem), adverted to in Dr. Bindon's letter, was however formed for reasons which do not apply to the out-post stations, and I fear that at present it would be impossible to grant fixed allowances to one of these latter, without granting the same to all.

Affording medical aid to the natives is a subject in which his Excellency Sir George Grey takes much interest, and I make no doubt but that when the Government of this province is finally settled, and his Excellency's plans developed, he will make special arrangements and provision for the due affording of such aid.

In the meantime I request you will furnish me with a detailed report of all cases attributed to witchcraft, in which Dr. Bindon's practice has been successful, in order that the same may be more generally known, and likewise that I may be enabled to bring them to the notice of his Excellency.

I have, &c.

Charles Brownlee, Esq. Gaika Commissioner, Dohne Post.

(Signed) John Maclean, Chief Commissioner.

A true copy.

(Signed) George M. Shepstone, Clerk to Chief Commissioner.

Encl. 3 in No. 2.

Enclosure 3 in No. 2.

Sir, Dohne, June 19, 1855.

In compliance with your directions, contained in your letter of the 4th June, that I should furnish you with a detailed account of all cases attributed to witchcraft in which Dr. Bindon's practice has been successful, in order that the same may be more generally known, and likewise that you may be enabled to bring them to the notice of his Excellency, I have the honour to state, for your information, that as neither Dr. Bindon nor myself kept any account of the cases treated by him, I am unable to furnish you with details, but herewith send you a list of cases so far as he and I can remember.

In most cases of illness among Kaffirs, particularly in serious and chronic cases, the doctors profess to extract from the body of the patient substances said to be introduced through the agency of witchcraft or magic, and though I made no inquiry respecting the cases I requested Dr. Bindon to treat, I doubt not that in most of them the patients were under the impression that they were suffering under the effects of some evil agency, and that the doctors had actually extracted substances, such as wood, rags, cow-dung, and even reptiles, from their bodies.

Among the cases enumerated, however, there are four in which I was informed that extraneous substances had been extracted from the patients, namely,—

1st. The case of chronic deafness in the son of one of "Macomo's" councillors; the doctors had professed to extract twigs and other things from the ear of the boy.

2d. A child of "Refene," one of "Macomo's" people, who had been suffering for eighteen months with an ulceration in the heel; in this case several doctors had been employed; sticks, thorns, and chips had been extracted without avail, and, if I remember rightly, sacrifice was recommended as a last resource.

3d. Ulceration in the nose; in this case the patient, a man of "Sandilli's" tribe, has suffered for two years from the disease, and has applied without avail to numerous doctors, some of whom have extracted substances from the parts affected without affording relief.

4th. Acute catarrh. This case is still under treatment, the subject being a child of the chief "Anta." Several of the doctors have been consulted in this case; some said the illness was occasioned by a serpent which licked the child during the night; another doctor assigned another cause, and extracted black solid substances from the child's forehead; but as the doctors disagreed with regard to the disease as well as to its cause, "Anta" applied here for medicine, and Dr. Bindon gave him some, which was attended with benefit to the child; and "Anta" was here a few days since for more medicine.

As a detail of the manner of treatment by the Kaffir doctors of the various cases may have been interesting, I regret I did not obtain them from the patients; but if you wish it, I will obtain all this information respecting all other cases which may be brought here for treatment.

I have, &c.

Colonel Maclean, Chief Commissioner, British Kaffraria.

(Signed) Charles Brownlee, Gaika Commissioner.

A true Copy.

(Signed) George M. Shepstone, Clerk to Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 3.

Sub-Encl. in Encl. No. 3.

Dohne, June 21, 1855.

List of Cases treated by Dr. Bindon, 6th Regiment, at this Post.

Fevers.
Disease of eye.
Chronic skin diseases.
Consumption.
Asthma.
Inflammation of the bowels.
Inflammation of lungs.
Lumbago.
Gonorrhœa.
Chronic ulcers.
Snake bites.
Boils.
Ulceration of tongue and mouth, &c.
Dislocation of wrist.
Compound fracture of middle finger.
Chronic deafness.
Disease of the heart.
Epilepsy.
Toothache.
Cuts and bruises.
Acute catarrh.

In addition to the above cases, Dr. Bindon expects two other cases, one of club-foot, and another of amentia.

I have &c.

(Signed) Charles Brownlee, Gaika Commissioner.

A true copy.

(Signed) George M. Shepstone, Clerk to C.C.B.K.

No. 3.

No. 3.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir George Grey to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 101.)

Government House, Cape Town, July 17, 1855.

(Received September 28, 1855.)

(Answered No. 29, October 11, 1855, page 45.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter I have received from the Reverend W. Shaw, Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions, detailing the results of a tour which he has recently made through British Kaffraria and Kaffraria Proper.

Enclosure. Rev. W. Shaw to Governor Sir G. Grey July 10, 1855.

2. The principal points of interest in this letter are the present satisfactory state of the Kaffir tribes in Kaffraria Proper, their anxiety to have Industrial schools established amongst them, which in three or four years will be self supporting, and their willingness to entrust those boys who will be hereafter their principal chiefs to our guardianship and care, in order that they may be instructed in Christianity and the arts of civilized life.

3. In my Despatch, No. 59, of the 30th May last, I transmitted for your Lordship's information an Address from the Legislative Council, pressing on my attention the necessity of instantly doing something to reclaim from barbarism the large masses of Fingoes who are settled within our frontier, and whose loyalty and good disposition towards the European population appeared to be becoming very doubtful.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

4. As one means of obtaining the desired ends, a large Industrial school, for the education of Fingoe children, was commenced at Heald Town, in the midst of a very dense Fingoe population, and your Lordship will, I think, be gratified to learn from Mr. Shaw's letter that the Rev. John Ayliff, who is entrusted with the care of founding this establishment, is pushing it forward with great energy; that the labourers on the works, with the exception of two or three European Mechanics, are exclusively Fingoes, whose conduct is in every respect satisfactory, that 30 boys and 10 girls are already under instruction by Mr. Ayliff, in temporary huts, and are making good progress, and that so soon as the school buildings are completed, they will be well filled with pupils.

5. From the concluding paragraph of Mr. Shaw's letter, your Lordship will farther learn that another Industrial Institution for the Fingoe race will shortly be opened at Salem, at which place 50 young girls of their principal families will be at once put under a course of industrial training.

I have, &c.

Lord John Russell, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

Encl. in No. 3.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Graham's Town, July 10, 1855.

SIR,

I ARRIVED at home on the 7th inst., after a tour of 11 weeks' duration, through British Kaffraria and Kaffraria Proper, as far as the residence of the chief Faku, beyond the Umzimonbu river.

During my journey I visited and spent some days at each of the following Wesleyan Missionary Stations, viz.:—Mount Coke, and the residence of the chief Pato, (with whom I had a long conference respecting re-establishing a Mission or Industrial school in his district,) King William's Town, Butterworth, Clarkeburg, Morley, Umdumbe Buntingville, Palmerton, and Shawbury; and on my return, after reaching King William's Town again, I visited Kama's Mission at Middle Drift (Keiskamma), Alice, Heald Town, and Fort Beaufort.

I will not at this time trouble your Excellency with any lengthened details respecting these Missions, as I hope it may be found practicable for your Excellency to spare so much time as will enable you to see some, if not all of them.

The tribes are at present all at peace with each other. The chiefs had heard of your Excellency's design to travel through their country. They questioned me as to your Excellency's intentions in doing so. I told them that they would learn these best from yourself, but that I could assure them that you wished to become acquainted with them; to hear anything they might wish to say to you, and that, moreover, they might rely on your Excellency's desire to promote their welfare and happiness. The idea of your visiting them in a friendly manner was evidently pleasing to them, and I think they will be disappointed should anything arise to prevent your Excellency from carrying out your intention.

The Missions between the Bashee and the Umzimonbu rivers, viz., Clarkeburg, Morley, Umdumbe, Buntingville, and Shawbury, and their out-stations, comprise a very large body of natives, all of whom have voluntarily placed themselves under the care and general direction of the Missionaries, or of Mr. M. B. Shaw, the British Resident.

In the Umdumbe district, on an extensive tract of country obtained some years ago by the Resident from the chief Faku, there is a population of four or five thousand natives, who have voluntarily submitted themselves to certain simple regulations which he has prescribed for them. As yet no Missionary resides with these people, but they are periodically visited, at their own earnest request, by the Missionary from Buntingville. As the locality is quite central for all these missions, I am very desirous that your Excellency should enable us to establish an Industrial School in this place, which can be well supplied with promising pupils from all the other stations as well as from the resident population.

The cost of such an establishment would be much less than for the schools near the border. A grant equal to the cost of the buildings and outfit, with a very moderate outlay for, say, two or three years, would be all that would be requisite to render this proposed institution self-supporting.

I should say that including all the stations between the Bashee and the Umzimonbu, there must be a *population* of more than 10,000 souls, who are wholly under the influence and control of the Missionaries and the British Resident, irrespective of some 40,000 natives occupying that territory, who, although living in friendship with the Missionaries and their people, numbers of them frequently attending religious services, have not as yet formally placed themselves under their care and direction. The field of usefulness is vast and inviting. We are doing what we can to cultivate it, but our means are too limited. We can hardly afford *one* European Agent or resident Missionary to each station.

Of course, your Excellency will not understand me as saying that the whole number of the population connected with these stations are professed Christians. I only mean that they have voluntarily placed themselves under our religious care; that they habitually

attend Divine Service, and in general have abandoned the most revolting heathen practices, while a considerable number are professed Christians and Communicants.

The chiefs whom I visited and with whom I held conferences during my journey were Pato Joye, the principal chief of the Tembu nation, Faku, the paramount chief of the Amampondas. The acting chief of the Amabaca, a powerful tribe on the upper branch of the Umzimonbu and Kama, with various minor and Fingo chiefs, the young chief of the Amabaca, Zeya, who will in a few years be the paramount chief of the Abatemba or Tambookies, were both introduced to me, and whenever I send for them I can have them as pupils in one of our schools, together with two or three boys of their own age, who will attend each, and will hereafter become their councillors or chief amapakate.

I am sorry that I missed seeing the chief Krielie. He had gone to the vicinity of Clarkeburg, and remained there several days before I reached that place. His object was to induce the Missionary at Clarkeburg to arrange a peace between his tribe (the Amagaeleka) and the Tambookies. The Tambookie chief (Joye) however refused to treat with Krielie until he could have the advice and presence of the British Resident as witness on the part of the Colonial Government. In consequence of the delay thus occasioned, Krielie returned to his residence, 50 or 60 miles distant, before I reached Clarkeburg on my return from Faku's country, and as my arrangements did not admit of my making so long a detour, I missed seeing him.

There is some cause, which I could not quite understand, although I may surmise, which has produced so sudden a change in the mind of Krielie regarding his relations with the Tambookie nation. When the latter five or six months ago asked for peace, Krielie proposed to them what he very well knew were impossible terms; but on this occasion he actually went in person (an unusual proceeding with native chiefs) to propose peace, and *waived* all the conditions on which he previously insisted.

Referring to future communications what I wish to bring under your Excellency's notice relative to Imbokaze on the Lower Buffalo river, British Kaffraria, and the Station which Kames people on the Keiskamma and other Stations, I cannot conclude without reporting to your Excellency the great satisfaction which I derived from my visit to *Heald Town*, where the Rev. John Ayliff is pushing forward the erection of the premises for the Industrial school with great energy.

It will be a noble building, and when completed will, I feel assured, be soon well filled with pupils. Not to lose time, Mr. Ayliff has had some temporary huts erected, in which, under great disadvantages for want of suitable accommodation, he already boards and lodges 30 boys and 10 girls, who are also daily instructed in the English language. I found them neatly clothed, very clean and comfortable, and all looking happy and contented. The labourers on the works are exclusively Fingoes, with the exception of two or three European mechanics. I have impressed an Mr. Ayliff the necessity of the greatest economy consistent with the solidity of the work, and I feel assured he will do his best; but looking at the great extent of the premises, and knowing by a good deal of experience the heavy cost of large buildings on this frontier, I fear it will be found that Captain Pilkington's rough estimate will be below the actual cost.

However I trust your Excellency will exercise confidence that we will do all we can to keep down the building and other expenses as much as possible, and as I have taken care that proper accounts of all expenditure shall be kept, we shall be enabled, whenever called upon, to furnish detailed accounts thereof.

The Lieutenant Governor has appointed a Commissioner to value the premises, &c. at Salem. They are to go there to-morrow. I am anxious that matters should be settled regarding that place immediately, that I may feel authorized to direct Rev. B. J. Shaw to complete the requisite arrangements, and commence that Institution without any delay.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir George Grey, K.C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. Shaw.

A true copy.
(Signed) W. F. Liddle,
Private Secretary.

No. 4.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir George Grey to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 103.)

Government House, Cape Town, July 19, 1855.

(Received September 28, 1855.)

(Answered No. 40, November 3, 1855, page 45.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to request your Lordship's attention to my Despatch No. 7*, of the 22d December 1854, in which I detailed a plan I intended to adopt, with a view, not only of postponing another Kaffir war, which then

* *Vide* Papers presented July 1855, p. 36.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

appeared imminent, but also of permanently settling frontier questions in this Colony; as also to my Despatch, No. 22,* of the 31st January 1855, in which I stated that I fully relied that Her Majesty's Government would adopt the recommendations I had made, and that the British Parliament would gladly sanction the adoption of measures which would ultimately effect so large a saving to Great Britain, and that I therefore intended unhesitatingly to take the responsibility of expending, in carrying out such measures, a sum not exceeding 45,000*l.* per annum, of which amount 40,000*l.* would be required to be furnished by Great Britain, feeling assured the British Parliament would in its wisdom see fit, under the critical circumstances which had arisen, to vote the necessary sums to make good the amounts which would thus be disbursed.

* *Vide* same Paper, p. 52.

2. I have the honour farther to request your Lordship's attention to Secretary Sir George Grey's Despatch, No. 12,† of the 12th March 1855, in which, in reference to the recommendations I had made on this subject, I was assured of the cordial approval of Her Majesty's Government of the general plan which I intended to pursue, since which date no farther instructions have reached me; and I have now the honour to report to your Lordship, that I have, in my capacity of High Commissioner, directed that an advance of 20,000*l.* should be made from the Commissariat chest, for the purpose of defraying the carrying into execution the cost of the measures which have been adopted, in conformity with the views which I reported to Her Majesty's Government, as above stated, that I intended to carry out.

† *Vide* same Paper, p. 69.

3. It will probably be sufficient that I should at present simply further report that these plans have hitherto been completely successful, and that none of the difficulties have yet been experienced which it was thought would be found in attempting to carry them into practice, from the repugnance of the Kaffirs to engage in works of industry, and from their dislike to any innovations upon their own barbarous usages. I believe that it is now generally admitted, that the plans now in operation will ultimately result in the entire settlement of the frontier question, but it is also admitted by those best informed on the subject, that everything depends upon such plans being at the present moment most vigorously carried out; for, as your Lordship is aware, a fatal epidemic which has appeared amongst the cattle in this country is carrying off in such numbers the herds of the Kaffirs, that large numbers of that race are left in poverty, and are likely soon to be pressed by want of food. Although this state of things presents in some respects extraordinary advantages for the introduction of a new system, one main object of which is to teach them to rely upon agricultural pursuits for their support, as well as upon pastoral occupations; yet, upon the other hand, a race of marauding barbarians are excessively difficult to control when pressed by hunger or want.

4. In fact, in these respects the Colony is still in a somewhat critical position, and the most urgent representations have recently been made to me on this subject; yet the persons making such statements all concur in thinking that an energetic prosecution of the system now in operation will ultimately be attended with complete success.

Enclosure. Rev. W. Shaw to Governor Sir George Grey, May 16, 1855.

5. In reference to the lamentable effects of the cattle sickness amongst the natives of British Kaffraria, I enclose the copy of a letter from the Rev. W. Shaw, Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions in this country, dated the 16th May last; and I regret to state, since that date the cattle sickness has continued to make greater ravages among the herds of the Kaffirs than it previously had done.

6. In order that I may watch narrowly the present position of affairs, I am about to proceed, upon the 21st inst., to the frontier; from thence I will, with as little delay as circumstances require, go on to Natal, and carry out your Lordship's instructions in reference to that Colony, passing through Kaffraria, both in going to and on my return from Natal, in order that I may satisfy myself that no possible means whatever is neglected of prolonging and rendering permanent the state of peace and progress which now exists; and I think that your Lordship will be justified in entertaining every reasonable expectation that success in these objects will be attained.

I have, &c.

Lord John Russell, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Sir, Butterworth, Kaffraria, May 16, 1855. Encl. in No. 4.

I have travelled through British Kaffraria as far as this place, and I am happy to report to your Excellency that I found all the tribes and clans perfectly quiet and peaceful. The harvest has been above an average crop, and notwithstanding the unprecedented murrain among the cattle, there will be no scarcity of food during the year.

The disease in the cattle has not at all abated. I am satisfied that at least 5,000 head of cattle are dying per month within the limits of British Kaffraria. This rate of mortality has been going on for nearly three months. Many of the remote and unfrequented parts of the country have as yet escaped; and the Kaffirs are doing all in their power to prevent the spread of the contagion, but it seems to me likely that nearly the whole of the kraals will be visited by it sooner or later.

While this terrible disease lasts, there is no danger of any Kaffir war; but when it is fairly over, a strong temptation will be presented to the Kaffir mind to endeavour to make up their losses by some more ready method than awaiting the natural increase of the surviving stock.—It would, no doubt, be a good thing that the projected public works in British Kaffraria, which would give profitable employment to many of the young men, should be commenced as soon as circumstances will allow. By this means, it is possible that many may look to the earning of wages, which they would mostly expend in cattle, as a means of replenishing their kraals.

I spent great part of a day with Pato and his son Dilema, near the Chaleemma, and they are both quite willing and desirous that I should re-establish a Mission or Industrial school in their country. They seemed to be entirely pacific in their views towards the Colony.

I proceed from this place, where there is now nothing but ruins instead of a fine populous Mission village, which stood here before the late war, on my way to the Stations over the Bashee to-morrow. I have seen a brother of Krielie here. I hope to see that Chief himself on my return. The cattle disease as yet is only partially felt on this side of the Kei River, and it has not yet appeared beyond the Bashee.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Lieut.-General Jackson, K.H. (Signed) W. Shaw.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 5. No. 5.

Copy of a DESPATCH, from Governor Sir George Grey to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 27, British Kaffraria.) Queen's Town, September 19, 1855.

My Lord, (Received December 19, 1855.)

I have the honour to report that I last night returned to this place from British Kaffraria. Whilst passing through that part of South Africa, I found everything in a very tranquil and prosperous state. "Sandilli," with two or three other principal Chiefs, met me upon my journey. Their manner was perfectly contented and cheerful; in fact, it could not have been more so; and it was in marked contrast to what I have heard that it had been on other similar occasions.

2. They made no complaint, but appeared in all respects quite satisfied.

3. I visited several of the Kaffir parties who are engaged as labourers upon the public works. I saw altogether about 250 men thus employed. They were perfectly contented and much pleased with the employment afforded them, for which they expressed themselves as very grateful.

4. It was a very pleasing sight to see the order and regularity which prevailed amongst these parties; indeed, their state of discipline under sub-overseers of their own race was very remarkable.

5. They are regularly rationed, their meals are prepared with scrupulous cleanness, and are well cooked; the Kaffirs conducting themselves with great propriety at mealtime. Out of nearly 500 men employed, it has only been found necessary to dismiss two for misconduct, and this was considered a severe punishment. Many hundred applicants have necessarily been refused employment, as no roads had been laid out for them to work on; and some difficulty is found in procuring efficient European superintendents for the working parties.

6. The Kaffirs thus employed on public works are divided into three classes, one man in sixteen being made a first-class man or overseer, with the pay of

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1*s.* per diem, and rations. One man out of every eight is rated as a second-class man, with the pay of 9*d.* a day, and rations. The remainder receive 6*d.* a day and rations.

Enclosures Nos. 1 and 2.

The rate of pay and rations are shown in the enclosed scales.

7. The average cost of each man is thus 16*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* per annum, and for this rate of pay they are, by opening up their country by roads, conquering it for us, and are yet perfectly contented to do so.

8. It must be borne in mind, however, that the continuance of this present state of things cannot be relied upon, for if we reduced our strength in this country, there is, I think, but little doubt that they would again try the chances of war; and even now so uncertain is the character of these people, we must at any moment hold ourselves prepared for an outbreak.

9. The European population in Kaffraria are also at present in very prosperous circumstances, and I have recently, by several alterations which I have made in the system of taxation, and the tenure under which lands are held, removed restrictions under which they were labouring, and thus I hope a new stimulus will be given to their energies and exertions. So soon as the proclamation which sanctions these changes is printed, I will transmit copies of it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

Lord John Russell, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY, High Commissioner.

Encl. 1 in No. 5.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

NUMBER of MEN to be employed on Works in Kaffraria, at the Rates of Pay shown in the accompanying Schedule.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
50 1st class men at 24*l.* 0*s.* 3¾*d.* per annum each - -	1,200	15	7½
100 2d class men at 20*l.* 11*s.* 6¾*d.* per annum each - -	2,057	16	3
800 3d class men at 15*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.* per annum each - -	12,191	13	4
	£15,450	5	2½

Average cost per man - - 16*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*

Encl. 2 in No. 5.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

RETURN showing the Daily and Annual RATE of ALLOWANCES to be given to Men employed on Public Works in British Kaffraria.

CLASS.	ALLOWANCES PER DIEM.												Amount of Allowances per Diem.			Total Amount of Allowances per Annum.		
	Meat, 1½ lbs.		Corn, 2 lbs.		Coffee.		Sugar.		Soap.		Tobacco.							
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1 - -	0	4	0	1	0	0½	0	0½	0	0¼	0	0½	0	6¾		10	5	3¾
2 - -	0	4	0	1	0	0½	0	0½	0	0¼	0	0½	0	6¾		10	5	3¾
3 - -	0	4	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0½	0	5½		8	7	3½

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir GEORGE GREY to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 33, High Commissioner.)

Government House, Cape Town, November 17, 1855.

MY LORD,

(Received January 21, 1856.)

Enclosure No. 1. Chief Commissioner to Sir G. Grey, November 3, 1855.

A FAVOURABLE opportunity presenting itself of communicating with England, I have the honour to transmit the copy of a letter which I have just received from the Chief Commissioner of British Kaffraria, containing the last intelligence which has reached me from that territory.

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2. Your Lordship will, I am sure, feel pleased at the satisfactory state of affairs which prevails there. By an early opportunity I will transmit a full report of the subjects discussed at the public meeting of the chiefs to which the Commissioner alludes in the enclosed letter. These involve a complete change in the Kaffir system of government, without an alteration in which nothing can be expected but a constant succession of wars, such as have hitherto prevailed. Although I have had serious difficulties to contend against in getting a fair consideration given to the changes I felt it my duty to propose, I now hope, from the favourable tenor of the Chief Commissioner's letter, that the determination with which I have adhered to this vital point will meet with success.

3. Your Lordship will farther be pleased to find what progress is being made in the preparation of the first village for the military pensioners. It appears that the cost of the cottages, which are very comfortable ones, will not exceed twenty-five pounds, a part of which will be recovered from the pensioner.

4. This first village abuts on King William's Town; the best judges estimate the value of the property in this town and its neighbourhood, which will become the pensioner's own at the end of his seven years' service, at considerably more than 150*l.*, and it will then continue to increase in value; but from the enclosed letters to the Chief Commissioner, your Lordship will find that it will be held in part under a tenure which will secure the payment of a perpetual annual quit-rent on the property allotted to each pensioner of *2l. 5s.* per annum, which will be applicable to defraying the cost of sending out the pensioners, and of locating them in this country; and that other townlands, to which the presence of these men will give a considerable value, will be reserved to be sold for the same purpose.

No. 2. Sir G. Grey to the Chief Commissioner, September 17, 1855.

No. 3. Do. to Do. September 18, 1855.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY,
High Commissioner.

Lord John Russell,
&c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Encl. 1 in No. 6.

My Dear Sir George, Fort Murray, November 3, 1855.

The papers herewith forwarded with Schedule 221 of this day's date may, I trust, prove satisfactory to your Excellency.

Nothing could in my opinion have been more gratifying than the temper and bearing of the chiefs (both Gaika and Helambir's), also of their Amapakati and people, at the meetings held with them at the Dohne and at this Station.

The Hlambi chiefs, with the exception of Umhala (as explained in my Report), have accepted your Excellency's suggestions; I am, therefore, of opinion, that we ought to allow the Gaikas to entreat for similar favours, rather than appear to press it further upon them.

I trust your Excellency may approve of the proceedings.

With regard to the Fingoes, it appears to me a question worthy of your Excellency's attention whether the magistrate appointed over them should not rather be in the position of the head man, to whom there lay always a right of appeal. In either case, head men or Pakati might form part of the court.

The great point is, that a man of energy and judgment being chosen, he should never be removed from that sphere, though his sphere might be increased, by which means he would be more looked upon as their chief.

For the same reason, while necessarily invested with magisterial powers, he should not be merely considered a white magistrate, but as especially over and identified with his Fingoes, to whom he would stand in the light of patronus among the Romans.

Our road works have not progressed as rapidly as I anticipated, owing to continued wet weather and other causes, and the scale of rations submitted to your Excellency by Mr. Brownlee cannot be furnished at the same rate, except in cases where corn may have been purchased at a low rate and stored during the harvest season. I am now preparing another scale for your Excellency's consideration.

I may state that the Izele road, also the new line to the Dohne, are finished; waggons pass daily upon each road, and as soon as I receive the survey of the new road to Graham's Town *viâ* Tamacha, a strong gang under Mr. Kayser will be set to work. I am also ready to commence the East London line, and I trust in the course of a few days to have every approved line of road in full operation.

I much regret that no tender has been made for the erection of the native hospital at King William's Town.

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The Pensioner Village is progressing fast. We have an excellent officer in command of the working party, Captain Grantham, and I have a hope that each cottage will not exceed 25*l.*, although in all our dealings with civilians the charges are high.

* * * * * * *

Yours, &c.

His Excellency Sir George Grey, K.C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN.

Encl. 2 in No. 6.

Enclosure 2 in No. 6.

SIR, Dohne, September 17, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government having approved of the enrolments of pensioners for service in South Africa, it is my intention to cause the first 500 of these men who arrive to be located at King William's Town.

They may, I think, be expected to begin to arrive in the month of November or December, and the successive detachments will, for the present, be all landed at East London.

When, therefore, they arrive there, you will request the military authorities to give you such assistance in the way of transport and the supply of rations as they may be able to afford, and cause the pensioners and their families to be removed with as little delay as practicable to King William's Town.

On their arrival there rations must be issued to them for a few days. You will then employ such of the men as cannot obtain private employment upon public works, giving them a rate of pay without rations, not exceeding 1*s.* 6d. a day, seeing that they are placed under proper superintendence, and taking care neither directly or indirectly to encourage them to trust to obtain employment from the public, instead of striving in a spirit of proper independence to earn their own support.

My wish is that they should be located at King William's Town, at the back of the New Town, in the direction of the racecourse, where you should at once cause a village to be laid out for them.

Every man will in this village have allotted to him an Erf 60 feet by 50 feet, for which at the end of seven years' service he will receive a Crown grant: the tenure on which such Erf will be held under this grant will be the payment of an annual quitrent of 1*l.* Until seven years have expired no rent will be charged for the Erf. If the pensioner dies before the seven years, it reverts to the Crown.

Adjoining the village a suburban lot of one acre of land will be allotted to each pensioner rent-free. If he dies before seven years have expired, it reverts to the Crown.

Beyond these suburban lots, each pensioner may select a country lot of five acres, for which he will be required at once to pay a quitrent of 5*s.* per acre. At the end of seven years he will receive a grant for this, subject to the payment of the same quitrent. But it cannot be sold until seven years have expired, although it may at any time be leased with the consent of the Government, if they approve of the terms of the lease. If the pensioner dies before the expiration of the seven years, his widow and children may hold it on the same terms as the pensioner.

So soon as the village is laid out, you should at once cause 100 cottages of 20 feet by 12 feet each, with one chimney, to be erected upont he plan which we have discussed, so as to be prepared if possible for the arrival of the first detachment of pensioners. When they have arrived, or more certain information is obtained regarding the time at which the future detachments will arrive, and the numbers in which they will come out, other cottages can be erected.

No time should be lost in commencing the watercourse which will irrigate the land which is to be allotted to the pensioners.

I have, &c.

The Chief Commissioner of British Kaffraria. (Signed) G. GREY.

P.S.—I have to request that you will transmit a copy of this letter to the Lieutenant General for his information. G. G.

Encl. 3 in No. 6.

Enclosure 3 in No. 6.

SIR, Dohne, September 18, 1855.

ADVERTING to my letter of yesterday's date upon the subject of the pensioners to be established at King William's Town, I have to request you to reserve lands between the Old and New Town, and in that neighbourhood, to be sold to defray in part the cost of sending the pensioners to this country. For the same object you will, if practicable, cause a street to be laid out between the New Town and the Pensioners' Village, and you will reserve the Town lands upon the other side the river and any other valuable Town lands for the same purpose.

I have, &c.

The Chief Commissioner of British Kaffraria. (Signed) G. GREY.

No. 7.

No. 7.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir George Grey to the Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, Bart.

(No. 134.)

Government House, Cape Town,
December 7, 1855.

Sir,

(Received January 26, 1856.)

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch,* No. 9, of the 12th of August last, acquainting me that only 107 enrolled pensioners had volunteered for service in South Africa, some of whom would probably be withdrawn before the time of embarkation; and that as it would be obviously useless to send so small a number, their services had been declined.

* Page 43.

2. I beg to state, that I think it would be a very great advantage to the Colony if even the small number who have volunteered were permitted to come here. With much experience in this matter, I feel quite assured that the pensioners would succeed in South Africa even better than they did in New Zealand.

3. We already have one village nearly completed for 100 men. If that was occupied, the news that they have done well in South Africa would be conveyed by the pensioners by letter to all the pensioner districts in England, and I have every confidence that we should then in a short time obtain as many volunteers as we should require; for it is by no means a necessary part of the plan that they should come in large numbers at once, and the news spreading that one detachment of pensioners had done well in the country they had gone to, would soon induce others to join their comrades. This was found to be the case in New Zealand.

4. Knowing Australia probably as well as any other person, I am sure that if the real state and prospects of the frontier of this country was made known, there would be no difficulty in inducing persons to emigrate here. It is most unfortunate for the frontier that its true position is so little known, and I was very sorry, from the remarks I saw in the military newspapers, to find how little the future prospects of the pensioners in this country are understood.

5. If you will permit the experiment to be tried here, you will, I think, confer a great benefit on the pensioners themselves, save Great Britain any farther anxiety in regard to South Africa, and obtain the lasting gratitude of the people of this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Sir William Molesworth, Bart.,
&c. &c.

No. 8.

No. 8.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir George Grey to the Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, Bart.

(Separate.)

Government House, Cape Town,
December 8, 1855.

Sir,

(Received January 26, 1856.)

I have the honour to state, that I observe from your Despatch,* No. 9, of the 12th of August, that it is in your opinion very doubtful whether any inducement could be held out which would be sufficient to tempt persons, who are made thoroughly acquainted with the state and prospects of the frontier of this Colony, to emigrate there from Great Britain.

* Page 43.

2. Probably the information regarding the state and prospects of the frontier which have reached England since that Despatch was written, may have considerably modified these views.

3. But I should wish to be allowed to add, as it is most important that a right opinion should be formed on this subject, that the inhabitants of those districts of the Colony which abut on the frontier districts, must certainly be better acquainted with the state and prospects of the frontier than any other persons, yet that amongst these individuals there are now more than a thousand

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applicants for the few farms, reduced in size, which still remain to be given out upon a system of military tenure.

4. It is quite true that these persons calculate upon the protection afforded by the military force now in the Colony, without the aid of which they could not stand their ground. But what I am anxious to see established is a system by which in the course of a few years an even greater degree of security will exist than at present, without Great Britain being required so constantly to maintain a large standing force in the country.

5. In further proof of the well-doing of the people here, I may state, that with a very great, I believe an unusually great practical acquaintance with our Colonies, I believe that the English settlers who came out here in 1819 have succeeded as well as emigrants have done in any part of the world, better than in very many, and, as a consequence of this, the value of landed property has continued for many years steadily to rise.

6. I therefore feel entirely assured that the diffusion of a true knowledge of the state and prospects of the frontier of this Colony would have the effect of rendering it a favourite field of emigration, and that in no other way than by encouraging emigration here can Great Britain relieve herself of the expense she now incurs for the defence of South Africa.

I have, &c.

Sir William Molesworth, Bart., &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

No. 9.

No. 9

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir George Grey to the Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, Bart.

(No. 46, High Commissioner.)

Government House, Cape Town, December 18, 1855.

(Received March 10, 1856.)

Sir,

(Answered No. 45, March 20, 1856, page 46.)

I have the honour to report, for your information, the outline of a system for the better administration of justice, which I am attempting to introduce into British Kaffraria as also the reasons which have led me to consider it imperatively necessary to introduce some change in the system which at present prevails there, and the degree of success which has hitherto attended my endeavours in this respect.

2. The system under which Kaffir Law has hitherto been administered in British Kaffraria has been, that accusations and complaints are brought before the Chief of each Tribe by any person of that Tribe who may deem either himself or the public to have been injured. Such complaint or accusation whether of a public or private nature, is then heard by the Chief and some of his counsellors, who impose a fine (almost invariably so many head of cattle and horses) upon the party to whom they attribute guilt. The fine is levied by messengers sent by the Chief, and upon its being brought to the Chief's kraal, the messengers are first paid from the fine, for levying it; the Chief then takes such portion as he pleases for himself, distributing a part of this amongst the Counsellors who heard the case; the remaining portion of the fine, in a private case, is handed over to the complainant, who shares his portion amongst those of his friends who assisted him in the conduct of the case, the collection of the evidence, &c. All persons who are members of the tribe are regarded as the absolute property of the Chief. Hence, in all cases of murder or acts of violence committed on the person, the whole fine imposed and levied in the first instance is taken by the Chief, although he again gives a share of this to his counsellors.

3. The fines thus taken for the administration (as it may be termed) of justice constitute a very large part of the revenue of the Chief; and as the counsellors generally only remain for a few weeks about the person of the Chief, being then succeeded by others, the same fines enable him also to maintain about him at all times a certain retinue of attendants, to whom the same system of fining becomes a source of considerable profit.

4. The alleged offence of witchcraft (a public crime) subjects a person found guilty of it to torture and death and the total confiscation of his pro-

perty. No sooner, therefore, does a person grow rich, than he is almost certain to be accused of this offence, and is, at least, stripped of all he possesses.

5. It is impossible that people subjected to such a system can ever advance in civilization, or long persevere in attempting honestly to acquire property, of which they are almost certain ultimately to be stripped at the caprice of the Chief and his counsellors.

6. Such a mode of administering what is termed justice can but continually train up a poor and restless race of robbers, who, if they are in the vicinity of a community wealthy in flocks and herds, yet much scattered (as is the case here), will from time to time look in and steal, and carry off the stolen property to their own country, where the Chiefs are little likely to assist in giving up thieves, who have only stolen that, the greater portion of which will probably ultimately in the due process of their own law become part of the private revenue of the Chief.

7. The same reasons which must lead these barbarian Chiefs to look with a very favourable eye upon thieves who pillage from beyond their own frontier, equally lead them to encourage accusations for witchcraft and other fictitious offences, and to earnestly seek rather to have the accused found guilty than acquitted.

8. Moreover, the Chiefs, deriving at least a very large part of their revenue from what may be termed the fees and fines of their courts of justice, usurp, in fact, the prerogative of the Crown, exercising sovereignty by appropriating to their own wants a part of the public revenue, and interfering with the prerogative of mercy by preventing the Crown from remitting fines and penalties, however unjustly they may be imposed, and finally preventing the Queen from throwing any part of the protection afforded by British Laws over the quiet and well-disposed amongst Her Kaffir subjects.

9. It is important farther to remember that the jurisdiction of the Chiefs as above stated extends and is exercised, not only over certain persons, but over entire and extensive territories, the population in which is increasing, and is likely continually to increase, so that a dangerous power is already in existence, and is year by year growing more formidable and difficult to destroy.

10. The prevailing cattle sickness has not only greatly impoverished the Kaffirs, but by destroying the source from which fines were levied, was drying up as it were the future revenues of their Chiefs—an event which, whilst on the one hand it appeared likely to render barbarians more formidable from the recklessness induced by poverty,—on the other hand appeared to me to offer a most favourable opening for destroying the whole of that portion of the Kaffir system of polity which renders the progress of the Kaffirs in the arts of peace impossible.

11. I will therefore briefly state what the enclosures to this Despatch detail at length, viz., that I had a rough estimate made of the probable annual value of the fines received by the Chiefs under the present system, taking into account the uncertain nature of a revenue raised from such a source, the difficulty and unpopularity of levying it, and other similar circumstances; and I then offered to the Chiefs a monthly stipend, to be paid by the Government, equivalent to this revenue, and an allowance of so much a head for so many councillors, to be paid to the individuals performing the duties of that office, at the stipulated rate, for the number of days they performed such duties.

12. Under this arrangement, all fees and fines for public offences were to become a part of the revenues of the Crown, as in other countries. Fines for manslaughter were to be given to the families of the man slain. The Chiefs and councillors were still to sit and hear all cases, but to receive no farther payment for doing so, and they were to be assisted in their deliberations and sentences by a European magistrate; it being my intention to select, in as far as possible, such gentlemen from the ablest men this country affords.

13. Under such a plan all the worst part of the Kaffir polity is broken down. Every Chief of importance will receive a certain regular income, for which he will be dependent upon the Government of the country, and will therefore have the strongest interest in its maintenance and success. European laws will, by imperceptible degrees, take the place of their own barbarous customs, and any Kaffir Chief of importance will be daily brought into contact with a talented and honourable European gentleman, who will hourly interest himself in the

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Enclosures.

No. 1, Sir G. Grey to Chief Commissioner, July 26, 1855.
No. 2, Chief Commissioner to Sir G. Grey, Aug. 4, 1855.
No. 3, Do. to Do. August 14, 1855.
No. 4, Mem. from Ditto to Ditto August 28, 1855, enclosing letter from Mr. Brownlee of August 23, 1855.
No. 5, Sir G. Grey to Chief Commissioner, Sept., 17, 1855.
No. 6, Mem. from Mr. Brownlee, Aug. 23, 1855.
No. 7. Chief Commissioner to Sir G. Grey, Nov. 3, 1855.

advance and improvement of the entire tribe, and must in process of time gain an influence over the native races, which will produce very beneficial effects.

14. From the enclosed correspondence you will find that the Chief Commissioner of British Kaffraria was very much averse to my attempting to carry out the plans I have above stated: his reasons are given at length in his letters; but I felt it my duty to insist that effect should be given to my views, because all the Kaffrarian authorities admitted that the present state of things was in fact an armed truce; that no measures were in progress which could bring about the ultimate settlement of the country, or which would lastingly maintain peace; that, on the contrary, another war must inevitably come, and the only question was for how long a time it could be staved off. It was also admitted that no other plan could be proposed in lieu of the one I recommended. Under these circumstances I thought it my duty to act on my own judgment, and to incur some risk in carrying out plans, in the ultimate success of which I had confidence.

15. From the farther correspondence herewith enclosed you will be glad to learn that the whole of the Chiefs of one of the two great divisions of the Kaffir tribes, and one of the Gaika Chiefs, have adopted my views, with this proviso, that they may name their own magistrates. To this, of course, I cannot accede; but I have no doubt that they will shortly all give way upon that point; in fact, the most influential of them has already done so, and, in as far as my experience with barbarians goes, I am rather inclined to think that the proposal was rather intended as a flattering compliment to interpreters and other persons whom they have known, and may have even arisen from hints dropped by Europeans.

16. I am also glad to be able to conclude this Despatch by reporting that I have had a few lines from the Chief Commissioner, dated the 11th inst., informing me that the remaining Kaffir Chiefs (that is, those of the Gaika and most important tribes), including the paramount Chief, have at last accepted my proposals, accompanied by the stipulation that a particular gentleman shall be appointed their magistrate. This stipulation is in their instance attended with no inconvenience, as the gentleman they have named is the same person as I directed in my letter to the Chief Commissioner of the 26th of July (enclosed in this Despatch) should be appointed to that office, if they accepted my proposals, and who, I think, (indeed I feel pretty sure on this subject,) was the person I told Sandilli I intended so to appoint.

I have, &c.

Sir William Molesworth, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) GEORGE GREY,
High Commissioner.

Encl. 1 in No. 9.

Enclosure 1 in No. 9.

Sir, Government House, Cape Town, July 26, 1855.

The system under which Kaffir law is administered amongst the natives of British Kaffraria appears to be, that complaints are brought before the chief of each tribe by any person of his tribe who deems himself aggrieved. Such complaints, whether relating to a question of disputed property or an alleged criminal offence, is heard by the chief and some of his councillors, who impose a fine on the party to whom they attribute guilt, generally so many head of cattle. The fine is levied by messengers from the chief's kraal, and being brought to the chief, the messengers are first paid for levying the fine. The chief then takes a certain portion for himself, of which he generally distributes some amongst the councillors who heard the case, and the remainder of the fine is handed over to the complaining party, who frequently again shares his portion of the fine amongst those of his friends who have assisted him in the prosecution of the case.

The prevailing cattle sickness will probably so far reduce the number of cattle in British Kaffraria, that the advantages which the chiefs and councillors derived from this barbarous mode of administering justice are likely for some time to be so far diminished, that the present moment presents a most favourable opportunity for introducing a new system for the administration of justice amongst the Kaffir population.

I propose, therefore, that British Kaffraria should, for the purposes of the administration of justice, be divided into eleven districts, each district consisting of the location of the chiefs severally named in the schedule hereto annexed.

To each chief I farther propose that the number of councillors named in the schedule should be respectively assigned.

These chiefs and their several councillors to receive the rate of annual salary named in the schedule, to be paid monthly, in instalments, as a payment for acting as administrators of justice.

In the case of those chiefs who now receive gratuities for former good conduct, the new salary to be in addition to such gratuity.

I further propose that the several districts I have named should compose eight divisions, to each of which a resident magistrate should be appointed, with an interpreter where necessary.

As Mr. Brownlee could act as magistrate, Jan Tatzoe could be put under the resident magistrate at King William's Town, and some special arrangement could be made regarding Kama. It would be only necessary, in order fully to carry out this system, that five or six new magistrates should be appointed, who, if the Lieutenant-General will concur in this arrangement, I should take principally from officers serving with their regiments in this country, and, if possible, from amongst those who, by their activity in the field, had given proof of their energy and fitness to be placed in difficult positions.

To each magistrate a salary of three hundred and fifty pounds (350*l.*) per annum to be allowed, to cover house-rent, forage, and other allowances. Where an interpreter was attached to a magistrate, a sum of one hundred pounds (100*l.*) would be allowed the interpreter, with forage for one horse, and thirty pounds (30*l.*) per annum house-rent. Where a magistrate acted as his own interpreter, an addition of fifty pounds (50*l.*) per annum to be made to the magistrate's salary.

I then propose that for the future all such cases as are now brought before a chief and his councillors, should be brought before the same authorities, sitting jointly with the resident magistrate, who should act as assessor and adviser, endeavouring in all cases to have such a decision arrived at as was consistent with equity and good conscience.

Under such a system, it is intended that the fines levied under the authority of the chiefs should for the future be stated at a money value, which may be levied, if necessary, by distraining the cattle and goods of the offender, such fines to consist of two portions, fees of court, to be paid to the Crown as part of the general revenue of British Kaffraria, and the damages awarded to the party complaining; but no part of such fines to be paid to the chief or councillors as heretofore, it being understood that their paid salaries are in lieu of all such fines, unless, indeed, it may be thought advisable to allow a per-centage upon all fines collected to the councillors for their trouble in causing the same to be collected, in the manner that sheriffs' officers are paid in this Colony.

The magistrate could receive and account for all such fines and penalties in the usual manner, his interpreter acting as clerk.

In addition to the duties which would thus be thrown upon the magistrates, they would be expected to be constantly moving through their districts, acquiring a knowledge of the country and its inhabitants; to take an interest in their welfare, exerting themselves to the utmost to encourage industry, agriculture, and to promote civilization, to keep a daily journal of their proceedings, to be transmitted monthly to the chief Commissioner, and to report to him fully and constantly upon the state of their several districts.

I have now only to request that after you have given your attention to the plan proposed in this letter, you will acquaint me with your opinion of its general applicability to British Kaffraria, giving me at the same time your advice as to the manner in which the several details of the plan, relating either to the number of divisions, magistrates, interpreters, chiefs, councillors, rates of salary, may be best carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. Grey.

Colonel Maclean,
Chief Commissioner, British Kaffraria.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 1.

Schedule.

Chief.	Salary.	Councillors.	Pay.	Districts.
Pato - - -	75	5	18	1
Umhala - - -	60	3	- -	1
Macomo - - -	50	3	- -	1
Botman - - -	30	2		
Sandilli - - -	60	5	- -	1
Anta - - -	50	2	- -	1
Suvani - - -	60	3		
Tatai - - -	60	2	- -	1
Toise - - -	50	2		
Kama - - -	60	2	- -	1
Tatzoe - - -	30	3	- -	1

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

(No. 222.) Enclosure 2 in No. 9.

Encl. 2 in No. 9.

SIR, Fort Murray, August 4, 1855.

HAVING received, in his Excellency's letter of the 26th ultimo, certain suggestions for the better administration of justice among the Hlambi and Gaika Kaffirs, and having, in accordance with his Excellency's instructions therein contained, maturely considered these suggestions in various points of view, I beg most respectfully to submit the following remarks upon them, feeling myself reluctantly forced to the conclusion that the present state of these tribes and of our relations with them renders the adoption of these measures a matter doubtful, not as regards utility, but as regards safety, and sooner or later hazardous to the peace of the country, even should the seeming consent of the chiefs be now obtained.

Conclusion come to, useful if possible, but not considered possible under present circumstances.

Text of rest of report.

Were the Kaffirs a race by nature willing to be civilized, or ready to intermix with others, or were their general ideas, habits, and polity broken down, either by conquest or by the indirect or continuous influence of a stronger and more civilized race, I should rejoice to see plans as these put in execution; but so far as I can judge, these, as compared with the actual state of affairs, are of so advanced a nature to render it more expedient to defer them to some future time.

Characteristics of the race which prevents the possibility of carrying out the system proposed.

The Kaffir, contented like the North American Indian with his barbarous state, and apathetic as to improvement, has in addition these other characteristics, that he clings tenaciously to his old customs and habits, is proud of his race, which he considers pure blood and superior to others, is therefore eminently national, is suspicious, and holds aloof from others; and while considering the white man as a means of obtaining certain articles which the despised industry of the latter supplies, would yet prefer their absence.

Various bearings of these characteristics on the question.

Under the influence, direct or indirect, of the white man, the chiefs dread the passing away of their power, and the people cling to their chiefs, both as being Kaffirs and as having by hereditary descent and unquestioned right to rule, or rather, while they cling less to any one chief personally, they cling to the native chieftainship as to a power which is of and which represents themselves and their race.

Under these circumstances I conceive—

1st. That as was found to be somewhat the case with Missions, the mere continued presence of a Government officer at a chief's kraal, or near it, would be disliked and considered in the light of an irksome control.

2d. That the position of a European resident magistrate, acting as coequal with the chief, and frequently it may be in opposition to him, would degrade the chief in his own estimation and in that of the people from the position of a true chief, ruling by right of hereditary descent, to that of a mere head man, coequal with the white head man, and this degredation would be the greater, because so long as there was peace, the white magistrate, as representing the white government in his own person, would possess the greater influence.

3d. That the mere fact of the power only of deciding on cases, with the presence and advice of a European magistrate, being left to the chiefs, while the fine levied went, not to them, but to the Government, would be considered by the chiefs and the people as in reality a surrender of the chieftainship, or as reducing it to a mere name or nullity, while the subsidy would be considered an attempted bribe to induce the chiefs to surrender.

Vide letter from the Gaika Commissioner, schedule 194 of 2d June. Extract annexed.

4th. The Kaffir being suspicious, and inclined to look upon our endeavours to benefit them as made merely with a view to extension or subjugation, or with some other sinister motive (a recent example of which is the idea suggested to and adopted by Sandilli in regard to his watercourse), I am also of opinion that this present plan striking, as according to their ideas it does, at the very essence of chieftainship, will appear to them, or may readily be made to appear to them, as adopted solely for the purpose of destroying it and their independence together.

And I further think it probable that both the making the chiefs coequal with white magistrates, and the subsidizing them, will appear so like an attempt to convert them into paid dependants, that they will, contrary to any protestations we may as readily make, consider themselves as liable to be removed at will, and anticipate that the next step will be an attempt to remove them in the event of any dispute, just as it was attempted to remove Sandilli before the outbreak of 1850.

5th. These suspicions will, it further appears to me, be more readily adopted, because any such attempt will be thought by them a breach of faith, and inconsistent with the official declarations more than once made to them since the termination of hostilities, to the effect that the former system would be abandoned, and that the chiefs would in future be allowed to govern their people after their own manner, in all cases not repugnant to morality and common humanity; and that the Kaffirs would so understand it is, I think, shown in the late case of witchcraft, in which this declaration was quoted by "Toise" as a plea for his power to act as he had done.

6th. I am of opinion that the system will be considered as directly, or indirectly, affecting the paramount supremacy of Sandilli among the Gaika tribes, and in reality will affect it.

7th. Lastly, it appears to me that some difficulty will be found in the fact that all cases are not decided by the chiefs, but that there is a gradation of courts, from the head man of a kraal upwards, and that it will therefore be necessary to abolish these or assimilate their decisions to those of a higher court.

From these circumstances I therefore conceive, that however fond of gain the Kaffir may be, its influence in this instance is overborne by some other pass ons, nor will this subsidy render them willing to barter the privileges of power and independence, since these are not with them founded merely on avarice.

Conclusion again stated as derived from the above consideration.

And from the same considerations, I am led to believe that a system, which his Excellency would wish to build first upon existing institutions, with a view of gradually changing them, will according to Kaffir ideas wholly and at once subvert them.

It may be indeed at first supposed that this will be obviated by obtaining, as it is intended, the consent of the chiefs to these arrangements previous to their adoption, but on this I would further remark, that the whole tenure of my observations go to show that such a consent would not be a willing one, though it might be similar to that given to the system of 1848; which, by its apparent good working, lulled every one into a belief of security and improvement.

Under the same system also the people expressed themselves well satisfied with the administration of justice, yet they followed their chiefs into rebellion.

Second part of text dwelt upon, viz., want of power by conquest; our relations with tribes stated.

I should not, however, have dwelt so much upon these considerations, or have attached so much weight to them, had the Kaffirs in their late wars been thoroughly *subdued* and *conquered*, but while called British subjects, they are not subjects, as are our East Indian and other natives, nor yet subjects so far even as the Fingoes are; and in like manner we have stated to them that we allow them to rule themselves in all internal matters, and that we will not interfere with their habits and customs, so long as they are not repugnant to humanity, &c.; so it is in reality, for our control is not simply direct, as over those truly our subjects, but it is in a great degree indirect, and even in some degree nominal, and resembles more the influence which a powerful and civilized nation exerts over a neighbouring tribe of barbarians.

Thus for instance, if I may be allowed to take a late elucidation, I would say that the manner in which we are able to carry out and decide upon the late case of witchcraft, depended altogether upon our having, from various circumstances, a greater hold upon the chief "Toise" than upon any other; and had it occurred in some of the others, such decisive measures would have been imprudent, although since the indirect influence of the decision has, in a marked manner, discouraged the practice of employing witch doctors throughout British Kaffraria.

Previous considerations show lung sickness as not producing desire to give up chieftainship for money, as anticipated.

With regard to the effect of the lung sickness, even with all its severity, it will, I think, neither depress the tone or spirits of the Kaffirs to the required level, nor yet from the circumstances I have mentioned, produce a state of feeling so favourable to the adoption of these plans as was anticipated by his Excellency; while I may add, that as yet the disease has made no extensive ravages in the Gaika district on the contrary, in the Hlambi district, and along the coast, the epidemic has carried off about half the number of cattle.

In conclusion, I would observe that his Excellency will perceive by the tenor of my remarks, that I have limited myself to the consideration of the general principles and applicability of his Excellency's suggestions.

Should, however, these considerations be deemed of less moment than they appear to me, I will endeavour, should his Excellency desire, to make such suggestions, or the details, as may best conduce, in my opinion, to the carrying out of his Excellency's views; or should a similar scheme be thought applicable to the Fingoe race, as with certain modifications I think it might, I shall be prepared to forward my observations on what might be desirable in such a case.

I have, &c.

W. F. Liddle, Esq., Private Secretary. (Signed) John Maclean,
Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 2.

Sub-Encl. in Encl. No. 2.

Extract from the Gaika Commissioner's Letter to Chief Commissioner, dated Dohne May 30, 1855, a Copy of which was forwarded with Chief Commissioner's Schedule, No. 194, of the 2d June 1855.

"When the work was commenced, there was a good deal of indirect opposition to it, "some of the councillors saying that if Sandilli had a watercourse made for him he "would be virtually renouncing all hope and desire of getting back his old country; but I "am glad to say that this feeling has now given way to a much more satisfactory one.

"On the morning of the day that I left to come here, Sandilli asked me whether the "Governor had introduced the public works with the intention of weaning him from his "old country, and if his accepting of the work would not be against his getting back the "country he formerly occupied."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. Brownlee,
Gaika Commissioner.

A true extract.
(Signed) George M. Shepstone,
Clerk to Chief Commissioner.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Encl. 3 in No. 9.

(No. 223.) Enclosure 3 in No. 9.

Sir, Fort Murray, August 14, 1855.

Having considered it in accordance with his Excellency's instructions, I communicated confidentially with Mr. Brownlee, the Gaika Commissioner, compressing the general tenor of his Excellency's letter of the 26th ultimo, together with queries on the same, and a request that he would add any other remarks he might deem requisite, I have now the honour to transmit Mr. Brownlee's answers to the queries, and two letters comprising Mr. Brownlee's additional observations.

The objections raised by Mr. Brownlee, it will be seen, coincide in a great measure with my own, although in answering every particular query he does not seem to have always considered the whole scope and bearing of the matter; and there is throughout a tone of indecision which renders it somewhat difficult to decide whether Mr. Brownlee, from his zeal to see some desirable change effected, fully keeps in view or sees the force of his own objections.

With the exception, however, of dissenting altogether from the political theory expressed in the last sentence but one of Mr. Brownlee's second letter (so far as I can understand it), I do not feel called upon to make any other remarks, as his Excellency will be able to separate the objections founded on Mr. Brownlee's experience from the views into which his hopes lead him.

I have, &c.

W. F. Liddle, Esq., Private Secretary. (Signed) John Maclean,
Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Encl. 1 in Encl. No 3.

Sub-Enclosure 1 in Enclosure No. 3.

Sir, Fort Murray, August 6, 1855.

In giving me your opinion on the applicability of the plan proposed in the accompanying extract from his Excellency's letter of 26th ultimo, I would wish you to consider the following points, replying to each seriatim, adding any further observations which you may think necessary:

1. As regards the mere presence of a European resident magistrate, would this be received willingly by the chiefs, or how far would they dislike it, and consider their presence and their advice in the light of an irksome control?

1. Under present circumstances, I think that the presence of European magistrates to act as assessors and advisers, would be disliked and objected to. In consideration of the salary to be given to the chief, he may consent to have a resident appointed, but with the determination of evading as far as possible the fulfilment of the stipulations to which he assents.

2. In what light would the chiefs view the power of deciding on cases (with the presence and advice of a European resident magistrate), while the fine levied was paid not to them, but to the Government, either through themselves or through the resident magistrate?

Would it seem to them to render their chieftainship a mere word or nullity, or would their ideas of chieftainship be so little infringed by such a change, as to lead them to acquiesce in the plan of receiving the subsidy instead?

2. When the fine levied should be paid to the British Government, and not to the chief, the probability is, that in all cases where he could do so the chief would endeavour to prop his falling power and secure his popularity with his own people by leaning to the side of the offender. When the case might be between Europeans and Kaffirs, the chief would consider himself bound to advocate the cause of the latter. Bribery might also sway the chiefs in their decision of cases, and it would be his constant endeavour to maintain the integrity of his present standing.

3. In what light would the Kaffirs generally (as distinguished from the chiefs) look on the plan of the fines being received by the Government instead of the chiefs? Would they consider it any abrogation or lessening of the chieftainship, or a mere change of arrangements?

3. The idea of the chiefs would be, that so much per annum was offered to them for their chieftainship, influence, and revenue, and would probably value their chieftainship at a higher rate than would be expedient to pay for it.

This arrangement would be regarded by the common people as well as by the chiefs as a lessening of the authority of the chiefs, and inasmuch as the system of 1848 was without doubt acceptable to the common people, so would the system now proposed.

4. In case you thought the chiefs opposed to this change, do you think it would be so favourably received by the common people as to obviate any danger arising from the ill-will of the chiefs? or do you think that the apparent lessening or abrogation of the chiefs'

4. Whatever may be the views of the common people with regard to any measure, there is no doubt that a chief will command sympathy through the medium of his councillors and men of influence, and in cases of extremity, the common people, either from

power would tend to lead the people from national pride and adherence to their ideas of national independence and native chieftainship, to take the chiefs and Kaffir side of the question, even though they considered justice more likely under the new plan to be administered with a more even hand?

necessity or feelings of nationality, would stand by their chiefs.

5. Would this arrangement seem to the chiefs at all inconsistent with the official declarations made to them since the late rebellion, that the chiefs would be allowed to govern them after their own fashion, in all cases not repugnant to humanity, &c.; or would it seem a breach of such declaration, or be liable to be viewed as one of the steps towards subjugating them under the rule of the whites?

5. If this arrangement were adopted without the consent of the chiefs, they would certainly deem it an infringement of the declaration made to them on the 2d March 1853, as well as a step towards bringing them more closely under the rule of the English.

6. Many cases brought before the chiefs being appeal cases, and some cases being also never brought before the chiefs at all, but decided on by head men and councillors, do you from this circumstance apprehend any difficulty in carrying out this scheme?

6. When influential men and councillors would be excluded from power and gain by this system, they will doubtless use their influence in opposition to it.

7. Would this arrangement in any way tend, among the Gaika tribes, to diminish the authority of "Sandilli" over the other chiefs, if resident magistrates were appointed, and if so, what effect, favourable or unfavourable, would such a tendency have?

7. The authority of "Sandilli" being paramount among the Gaikas, he would not approve cordially of any system of judicature by which cases could be decided irrespective of him. "Macomo" and "Anta," however, would not object to any system which placed them on an equal footing with their younger though superior brother, but even this probably they would not purchase with the loss of supremacy in their own tribes. Should there be a combination among the minor chiefs to oppose Sandilli, they could withstand his authority, but this is only likely to be in opposing arbitrary or unjust conduct, which is seldom or never resorted to against minor chiefs by their superiors. The tendency, favourable or unfavourable, of the diminution of Sandilli's power, will of course depend entirely upon the position in which his Excellency purposes to place Sandilli. It may be necessary to maintain the preponderance of his power, for the sake of carrying out the government in his own tribe, and enforcing obedience in others; or it may be that his Excellency wishes to restrain Sandilli's power and influence to his more immediate adherents.

8. Do you consider the war spirit sufficiently broken, that the terms of the proclamation of peace made on the 2d March 1853 are likely for any length of time to be adhered to, and that habits of peace and good order are likely to be continued.

8. I consider the war spirit so far broken that the Gaikas deem themselves unable, under present circumstances, to involve themselves in war with the Government; but at the same time I feel convinced, if from any combination of circumstances they considered that they were strong enough to overcome us, war would be the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) John Maclean,
Chief Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. Brownlee,
Gaika Commissioner.

Dohne,
August 8, 1855.

A true copy.
(Signed) G. M. Shepstone,
Clerk to the Chief Commissioner.

A true copy,
(Signed) G. M. Shepstone,
Clerk to the Chief Commissioner.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Sub-Enclosure 2 in Enclosure No. 3.

Sub-Encl. 2 in Encl. No. 3.

MY DEAR SIR, Dohne, August 8, 1855.

SOONER or later some such system as that contemplated by his Excellency will have to be introduced for the Government of British Kaffraria, but I think the time has not yet arrived for its introduction among the Gaikas. It may, however, without delay be introduced among the Fingoes residing in British Kaffraria, and I think that the system would prove acceptable to "Kama" and "Toise"; it might also be received favourably by the Tambookies residing within the Queen's Town District, under the Regent "Nouesi." After the system had been introduced among these Tribes, and it becomes evident that it worked beneficially to the people, without depriving the chief of a revenue, or abrogating his authority and chieftainship (though, doubtless, they would gradually decay), the system might be willingly received here.

Had the thing become introduced at the conclusion of peace, I do not think that any objection would have been offered to it; but now the chiefs would look with suspicion on anything which would appear like a trenching on their authority, and all the influential men would sympathise with them, they benefiting with the chief in the plunder and oppression of the lower classes.

Should the lung sickness, however, break out among the Gaikas, and the loss of cattle become general, then I think his Excellency could at once introduce the system, and that it would be received as a boon, as the chiefs would then be without either revenue or retinue.

Under the present system the annual confiscations and fines are great; during the last two years "Sandilli" has confiscated fully 300 head of cattle, and as many more may have passed into the hands of his councillors and attendants in the way of fees for executing sentences in law suits. Though so many cattle have passed through Sandilli's hands, he himself is not possessed at the most of more than 120 head of cattle, as he is particularly liberal in the distribution of whatever comes into his hands. In a case where he confiscated 80 head of cattle, the property of a man named "Qontshi," Sandilli only retained five, distributing the rest among his councillors. Since the conclusion of peace, Sandilli has obtained in gifts from Hlambis, Galekas, and Gaikas, more than 100 head of cattle; and of all these I do not think he now possesses more than ten. There is thus a charm in his authority, which does not consist in the acquisition of property, but in being constantly attended in all his movements by large trains of flatterers, ever ready to do his bidding. His Excellency's system would strike at the root of this, and the sooner the better; but I fear that at the present moment, with the Gaikas, among whom petty chiefs descended from "Palo" and "Rarabe" may be called legion, the change would be viewed with suspicion and dislike, and that they would imagine the system of 1848 was again about to be established. But even supposing that they rightly apprehended the system, they would oppose it on the ground that they would be precluded from the exercise of the authority they now enjoy in the decision of cases, which, however, are subject to an appeal to higher courts.

This objection may, however, in some degree be met by permitting minor chiefs and influential men to hear cases and arbitrate, without granting them the power to resort to compulsion in the settling of any case. I think among the Hlambis the system could be introduced before it is among the Gaikas, as they have already suffered very severely from the lung sickness, which is still continuing its ravages. But if the system can be introduced only among the tribes who have lost their cattle, another system of punishment than fines will have to be resorted to; and even where the people are wealthy, individuals will be found who have not 10*s.* worth of property. The law among the Kaffirs is, that when a man who has no property is adjudged to pay a fine, his nearest relations must make it good; and as this law could not be acted on under his Excellency's arrangements, certain prison discipline would have to be resorted to.

In the meanwhile I think the best preparation for the favourable reception of his Excellency's arrangements is to extend, as far as possible, the public works now in progress. When people from all parts become enriched with the munificence and liberality of the Government, a feeling at least of confidence will gradually extend far and wide, and I think cannot fail to influence even those in authority, who are indirectly, and often directly, benefited by the earnings of their people. As the public works are extended, of course extended superintendence will be required; and by a proper and judicious selection young men may be obtained, who, by their training on the public works, and consequent acquaintance with the people, may be eligible to be employed as clerks and interpreters to any magistrates who may be appointed.

I have, &c.

Colonel Maclean, Fort Murray. (Signed) C. BROWNLEE.

P.S.—The foregoing remarks should probably have been sent officially: you may use them as such if you wish.

(Signed) C. BROWNLEE.

A true copy.

(Signed) GEORGE M. SHEPSTONE.

Sub-Inclosure 3 in Enclosure No. 3.

Sub-Encl. 3 in Encl. No. 3.

My dear Sir, Dohne, August 10, 1855.

I do not think I can add anything to what I wrote respecting the extract from his Excellency's memorandum. There is a difficulty regarding the limitation of councillors, as the chiefs have no fixed number: they have always more or less about them, and as some leave others take their place, all coming in for a share of what may be going in the way of fines and confiscations. The salaries for the chiefs will have to be fixed according to the number of their people, and the consequent extent of their revenue. If the chiefs should cordially fall into his Excellency's views, there will be no great necessity of keeping any extensive police, as sentences could be executed somewhat as they now are, namely, by persons about the chiefs, who, as the Governor suggests, could be paid by fees for the execution of each case. If it was thought necessary that the resident should have some share of authority in the execution of decisions, it would at least be necessary to make provision for feeding any people who may be hanging on in the expectation of finding employment; but I think it would be more advisable that the chiefs should have the enforcement of sentences.

The speedy adoption of his Excellency's scheme seems to me for the present greatly to depend on the lung sickness. Power is sweet, and the chiefs will cling with great tenacity to even the shadow of it, and it will be a hard struggle for them to give up the pleasure of distributing cattle among their followers. It is clear, however, that the present system is not adapted to the condition of a people beyond the stage in which the Kaffirs are, and it would perhaps be quite as easy to introduce a good system at once, as to be constantly making improvements to keep pace with whatever advancement may be made. When the Kaffirs know Sir George Grey better, and have full confidence in him, the difficulty of making any change will be greatly lessened.

I have, &c.

Colonel Maclean, Fort Murray. (Signed) Charles Brownlee.

A true copy.

(Signed) G M. Shepstone.

Enclosure 4 in No. 9.

Encl. 4. in No. 9.

Schedule of Documents submitted for the Consideration of his Excellency the High Commissioner.

Fort Murray, August 28, 1855.

Having called upon Mr. Brownlee, the Gaika Commissioner, for his opinions in regard to the introduction of a better system of justice amongst the Fingoe tribes, I herewith transmit that officer's reply, in which he states that he considers the system proposed in his Excellency's letter of the 26th ultimo needs of no modification as regards the Fingoes, but as regards the other native tribes, he is of opinion that there must be a revolution in their circumstances and sentiments, and that such a system, under present circumstances and feelings, could not be understood.

The opinions expressed by Mr. Brownlee appear to me a contradiction of those expressed in his former letters on the same subject, copies of which were transmitted with Schedule 208, of 14th instant.

(Signed) John Maclean,
Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 4.

Sub-Encl. in Encl. No. 4.

My dear Sir, Dohne, August 23, 1855.

I do not think Sir G. Grey's system of governing the natives needs any modification with regard to the Fingoes, and it would be infinitely preferable to the system of management through the superintendents under whom they have been placed, they being badly paid, consequently not efficient men, possessing little or no influence with the people over whom they have been placed.

There are, however, two great difficulties with regard to the Kaffirs.

They will not like the intervention and interference of European magistrates in tribal affairs.

And they will not approve of the giving over of the fines and confiscations to the British Government: this will strike at the root of their chieftainship and standing with their people, to which they cling with astonishing tenacity, many men on account of their descent ranking as chiefs, though they may have only two or three adherents; from these andthe councillors is the greatest opposition to be expected.

The subsidy which his Excellency Sir George Grey proposes to give is far below the revenue of the chiefs. This point alone, without any other, would cause them to object to the proposal, and if they consented to it, it would be with the determination of evading the fulfilment of the stipulation. On this point I would before have spoken more decidedly had I known when I wrote the amount proposed to be allowed to the chiefs.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

I think the only condition on which the chiefs would accept of the proposal would be that the fines and confiscations be appropriated as heretofore.

A magistrate must, however, have a voice in the passing of sentences: in this I see a difficulty which is liable to lead to endless disputes; —he and the chief may seldom or never be agreed as to the amount of fine, and they may often differ with regard to the guilt of a man brought before them for trial. What is to be done in such cases? Such cases will doubtless have to be referred to you for decision, thus in some degree assimilating the state of things to the system of 1848.

But before the chiefs would accede to the proposal, they will naturally inquire, "By what laws are we to be governed?" Here a difficulty will doubtless arise. It will be necessary that some code be formed for the guidance of the magistrates, and that a scale of fines be fixed as far as may be, for unless this is done there will seldom be any agreement between magistrates and chiefs in the settlement of cases. The law with regard to witchcraft will have to be abolished, for though we may now permit them to punish people accused of witchcraft, no magistrate could concur in the punishment of any one charged with witchcraft. The abolition of punishment for witchcraft would be greatly opposed by the chiefs, for, being considered an offence against the state, the principal part of the fine goes to the chief.

Before the Kaffirs will accept of Sir George Grey's plan, there must be a revolution both in their circumstances and sentiments. Under present circumstances and feelings the system could not be introduced. The minds of the chiefs and people must be gradually prepared for the change by instruction and civilization.

I have, &c.

Colonel Maclean, Chief Commissioner.

(Signed) CHARLES BROWNLEE.

Encl. 5 in No. 9.

Enclosure 5 in No. 9.

SIR, Dohne Post, September 17, 1855.

THE present mode in which the administration of justice is conducted by the chiefs is one which demands the most earnest consideration.

We can never expect the people to advance in civilization, or long to persist in endeavouring honestly to acquire property, if at any moment they may be stripped of it at the caprice of a chief and his councillors. Such a barbarous mode of administering what is termed justice can but continually train up a race of poor and restless robbers, who, if they are in the vicinity of a wealthy, yet scattered community, will certainly from time to time break in and steal from them, and carry off the stolen property to their own country, where the chiefs are little likely to assist in giving up thieves, who have simply stolen that, a great part of which will probably, in the due process of their own law, ultimately pass to the chief and councillors.

Moreover, the chiefs, deriving at least a considerable part of their revenue from what may be termed the fees of their courts of justice, or from fines for public offences, usurp, in fact, the prerogatives of the Crown, exercising sovereignty by appropriating to their own wants a part of the public revenue, and interfering with the prerogative of mercy by preventing the Crown from remitting fines and penalties, however unjustly they may be imposed, and, finally, preventing the Queen from throwing over the quiet and well-disposed among Her Kaffir subjects the protection of the British laws, as the chiefs and councillors have a direct interest in maintaining their own jurisdiction, which is so great a source of profit to them.

For similar reasons they have a direct interest in encouraging accusations for witchcraft and other offences, and in having the accused found guilty rather than innocent. It should be borne in mind also, that the jurisdiction of the chiefs is not only over certain persons, but over entire territories which have been assigned to them, the population in which is likely continually to increase, so that a dangerous power is already in existence, and year by year grows and becomes more formidable.

I need not go more into detail on this subject; the future of the country is hopeless whilst such a state of things continues, and the evil is so enormous, that even some risk must be incurred in putting an end to it.

I do not wish this to be done abruptly or harshly, or that we should attempt to take from the present chiefs and councillors a part of their present incomes without giving them a fair equivalent in return. But I hope that you will be able to induce the chiefs and councillors to accept such an equivalent for the fines and fees they now receive as I have named in the enclosed schedule, agreeing also that these shall become a part of the public revenue, and at the same time consenting to receive at their stations a resident European magistrate, upon the plan I have already explained to you, who, not attempting to enforce any decision of his own, shall yet sit as assessor with the chiefs in all important cases, and shall publicly state his opinion upon each case to the chief and councillors, and endeavour to induce them to arrive at such a decision as is consistent with equity and good conscience.

The result of this system will be, that the chiefs and councillors, gaining nothing from the fines, will have little inducement to impose them; and although, therefore, the Crown-

will for the present derive from this source little or nothing of the revenue which the chiefs now draw from it, still property will be much more secure than at present, a stimulus will be given to industry, and the indirect revenue that will be derived from an improving population will far more than compensate for the proposed outlay.

I also confidently trust that talented and honourable European gentlemen being brought into daily contact with the Kaffir chiefs, and interesting themselves hourly in their improvement and advancement, will by degrees gain an influence over them which will, in the course of time, induce them to adopt our laws and customs in place of our own, which the system I propose to introduce will gradually undermine and destroy.

I have already in a previous communication, and in various conversations with you, explained my wishes on this subject at such length that I need at present say no more than that I wish the proposed system to be introduced without delay amongst the Fingoes in the Crown reserve in a modified form. The magistrate there, acting at once as the chief, and a few head men being paid small stipends to act as councillors.

The Kaffir chiefs you must endeavour to induce one by one to adopt the proposed system.

The two first persons to be appointed as magistrates are Captain Gawler and Captain Reeve of the 73d Regiment. When you have so far prepared matters that you find you can locate magistrates with any of the chiefs, you can apply to the General to place the services of those two officers temporarily at the disposal of the Government, it being understood that they are to resume their military duties whenever required so to do.

You will of course be particular in explaining to these gentlemen how much of the success of the proposed plan will depend upon the discretion with which they act, and in impressing upon them how important it will be to act in all matters as the friends and advisers of the chiefs and their tribes, exerting themselves to the utmost to promote agriculture and the arts of honest industry, to explain all misunderstandings that may arise regarding the intentions of the Government, and gradually so to gain the confidence alike of the chief and his tribe, that they may exercise a considerable influence for good over them.

I have only farther to add that I wish the chiefs and councillors to be paid monthly, and that the salary of the councillors should be paid, not to any particular individual, but to the persons who perform the duties of the office during the whole or any portion of the month.

I have already slightly alluded to this subject to Sandilli, mentioning to him that you will communicate more at large with him regarding it.

Mr. Brownlee was present, and can thus let you know precisely what passed between Sandilli and myself.

I have, &c.

Colonel Maclean, (Signed) G. Grey.
Chief Commissioner, British Kaffraria.

Enclosure 6 in No. 9.

Encl. 6 in No. 9.

Memo. :— Dohne, August 23, 1855.

At a meeting held with the Gaikas, near the Yellow Woods, on the 2d March 1853, his Excellency Sir George Cathcart informed the Gaikas, that as they had shown their adherence and attachment to Sandilli during two years of war, they should now be placed under his rule and government, to be governed by Sandilli according to Kaffir laws and usages.

In 1853, a favourite ox of Umhala's died, and several persons being accused of having bewitched it, were put to death; though this even in its first stages was brought to the notice of Sir George Cathcart, he refused to interfere in it, thus practically illustrating his course of policy with regard to the government of the Kaffirs.

Since the case referred to with Umhala, several cases of appeal against the oppression of the chiefs have been brought before the Gaika Commissioner, but upon the principle laid down by his Excellency Sir George Cathcart, such appeals against the chiefs could not be entertained.

(Signed) Charles Brownlee,
Gaika Commissioner.

(No. 229.) Enclosure 7 in No. 9.

Encl. 7 in No. 9.

Sir, Fort Murray, November 3, 1855.

I have the honour to state, since your Excellency's departure, both the Gaika Commissioner and myself have taken various opportunities of laying before the chiefs individually the nature and benefits of a plan suggested in your Excellency's letters of the 26th July and the 17th September 1855, and I beg to annex a correspondence from the Gaika Commissioner, detailing various conferences held with Sandilli and others.

In the concluding paragraph of Mr. Brownlee's letter of the 18th ultimo, he states, that however much it may be opposed to my views, there was no course left open but to call a public meeting. Mr. Brownlee is aware of my desire to avoid public meetings whenever possible. I, however, found with him that in this case, where a general plan was proposed,

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

and where the matter was one of national importance, that however any chief might afterwards act on his own responsibility and judgment, no decision would be given until they had, according to custom, deliberated with one another.

I therefore convened a meeting of the Gaika Chiefs at the Dohne, and also one of the Hlambies at Fort Murray, and I have the honour to submit herewith the enclosed reports of what passed on both these occasions.

The two questions of receiving a European magistrate and that of paying over the fees to Government were those of course which created the greatest difficulty, and in the latter question particularly the case of a fine for murder was adduced, first by Sandilli and afterwards by other chiefs; for as the people are considered, according to Kaffir law, as belonging to their chief, so in cases of bloodshed, and generally in other cases of personal injury, the chief is considered the person injured, or as deprived of the services of the injured or murdered person; he, therefore, and not the injured person or his family, receives the compensation or "blood fine," and the paying over to Government in case of murder, therefore, appears to be more particularly than in any other a renunciation of the right of chieftainship.

This was so insisted upon that I thought it better to take a middle course, and suggest that on principles of equity the blood fines should go to the family of the murdered person, a change which I trusted might find favour from its obvious justice.

With regard to the proposition of the Gaikas to meet the Hlambies in a general council, I thought it proper to oppose it, as though the Gaikas and Hlambies separated from one another on the war of 1850, and though I have during my residence in this country observed, as I think, an increased tendency to separation between the various tribes, yet of late the Gaikas have more than once endeavoured to bring about some greater union between themselves and the Hlambies than has lately existed, and this union I have considered it as our policy to avoid.

Being under the necessity of meeting the chiefs collectively, I took advantage of it to assemble as many of the people as possible, partly in order that these latter, as those chiefly to be benefitted by the proposed change, might learn its true nature, and their influence thus be brought to bear on the decision of their councillors and chiefs, and partly also to prevent the spread of any malicious or unfounded statements, as on so important a subject would otherwise too readily arise and be believed throughout these and the neighbouring tribes.

I am happy to state that, in accordance with this view, the proposal, in so far as I can learn, was well received by the people generally, the opposition to the measure being confined more to the councillors, and more particularly those of the Gaika clans.

The chiefs in general cautiously avoided expressing any opinion, either before or during the meeting.

I have received no answer from the Gaikas, and from the statement made by the chief "Toise" it would appear that they have preferred, according to their expressed desire to myself, consulting Umhala, and that they intend taking the opinion of the chief Kreli.

Amongst the Hlambies, Kama first consented to accept the plan, coupled with the wish that he might be allowed to choose his own magistrate; on the following day Pato assented privately, making a somewhat similar request.

The next day Siwani, Toise, and Jan Tzatzoe gave their full concurrence to the reception of the plan as communicated to them by me.

MEMORANDUM.

Fingo head man in Crown Reserve - - -	16
In Mr. Calderwood's location, Tyumie, not yet handed to me - - -	3
Do. 1 Kaffir location in Tyumie - - -	1
	20

With regard to the Fingoes, I anticipate no difficulty; I have communicated with some of the head men, and they enter fully into your Excellency's plans. And I beg to propose, that the amount to be paid to each head of a clan should not be less than 20*l.* per annum, as otherwise they might feel hurt at receiving less, or equal to that received by the councillors of the Kaffir chiefs, viz. 18*l.* per annum.

For the present, as suggested in your Excellency's letter, Mr. Ayliff might act as magistrate both for Kama and the Fingoes, but I would recommend that as soon as possible these offices should be separated, in order that the magistrate appointed over the Fingoes may be the more readily received by them, as in reality their legitimate head, and as identified with their own interests. For the same reason, and as the strength of the personal influence of the person appointed will not only greatly influence their advancement but strengthen their fidelity to Government, and in case of disturbance render them more effective, I would also suggest, that the person appointed should, if possible, be one not likely to be removed, and who, if not conversant with the language, might reasonably be expected to become so.

I have, &c.

Sir George Grey, K.C.B., &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN,
Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure 1 in Enclosure No. 7.

Sub-Encl. 1 in Encl. No. 7.

MEMO.:— Dohne, September 24, 1855.

SANDILLI having been informed that his Excellency the Governor would pass the Dohne on the 17th September, came here to meet him, accompanied by "Xoxo," and one or two minor chiefs, with a few of their councillors.

After the arrival of the Governor at Dohne, Sandilli came alone to him, and stated that he had a request to make, as he was greatly in need.

Sir George Grey asked what the request was, and was answered that it was for money, blankets, and buttons for four of Sandilli's wives, who had new cloaks, but who had no buttons to put on them.

His Excellency replied that he would wish to place Sandilli in a position in which he could have a fixed and regular salary, that he might then be enabled to purchase for himself whatever he required, without depending on the casual favour and goodwill of the Governor to supply his wants; that the Chief Commissioner had received the Governor's instructions on this subject, and he would communicate them to Sandilli, together with the conditions on which the money would be granted.

Sandilli thanked the Governor, and said, "It is good."

(Signed) CHARLES BROWNLEE,
Gaika Commissioner.

A true copy.
(Signed) GEORGE M. SHEPSTONE,
Clerk to the Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure 2 in Enclosure No. 7.

Sub-Encl. 2 in Encl. No. 7.

MY DEAR SIR, Dohne, September 27, 1855,

I AM prevented to-day by rain from going down to Fort Murray, and I think it has been rather fortunate, as Sandilli has just paid me a visit. I introduced to him the Governor's arrangement for the future government of the Kaffirs, in the manner which I suggested to you in a note last week. I informed Sandilli that the Governor was anxious for the better government of the people, and that he would place him with the chiefs, who would counsel and advise him in the settlement of cases without using force or coercion. I said nothing with regard to the fines to be paid to the Government, but informed Sandilli that the Governor gave the salaries, that the chiefs should not derive their revenues from fine and confiscations. I informed Sandilli that I had no authority to make this communication to him, and that I did it only privately, for the thing is in your hands, and I would receive my instructions from you, or you would yourself come up and see Sandilli, to make him acquainted with the particulars; Sandilli appeared very much pleased with the amount of money that is proposed to be given to him and his councillors, and so far as he is acquainted with the thing, he highly approves of it; but, of course, he can give no reply until the thing is officially stated to him and before he meets his council. Macomo came here yesterday. I introduced the matter to him in the same manner as I did to Sandilli; he also approved of the arrangement as far as he knew it, and both were anxious to finger the silver as soon as possible. Sandilli asked if there would be no pay for this month. I told him, No. I read the names of the other chiefs who had been named in the Governor's letter, and Sandilli inquired why "Tola," "Xoxo," and "Oba" had not been named. I informed him that his Excellency did not wish to compel the people to accept of the arrangements he proposed to introduce; but if any of the chiefs who were not named wished to have Residents appointed with them, and wished to be placed under the same regulations as those named by the Governor, they might make the application; and I felt satisfied that the Governor would grant their request. Sandilli wished that the other chiefs should be included, as they would be a tax on his income, while he had so many brothers and councillors, that he would find it difficult to supply them all from the allowance.

I trust that I have not exceeded my duty in having broken the matter to these two chiefs. I thought it a pity of losing the opportunity of ascertaining their feelings in a friendly manner, that you might thus publicly have been enabled to choose the best course for the introduction of the thing.

Colonel Maclean, I have, &c.
Chief Commissioner, Kaffraria. (Signed) CHARLES BROWNLEE.

A true Copy.
(Signed) GEORGE M. SHEPSTONE.

Sub-Enclosure 3 in Enclosure No. 7

Sub-Encl. 3 in Encl. No 7.

SIR, Fort Murray, October 9, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to report for your information, that I this day went to the residence of the chief Sandilli, to acquaint him formally with his Excellency's proposal for the future government of the Kaffirs.

I found Sandilli with all his chief councillors and the chiefs Xoxo and Fynn.

I introduced the subject by informing them that the object most desired by the Governor Sir George Grey was to promote the prosperity and happiness of Her Majesty's

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The desire for peace should be avoided, as leading to a belief in our desire to purchase peace, and that this is a scheme merely to ensure it.
(Signed) J. M.

subjects, both white and coloured, and to secure a lasting peace: he was therefore doing everything in his power to secure the former and to establish the latter.

Robberies had caused war, but his Excellency has put it into the power of the industrious to procure by labour of their hands cattle and whatever else they needed. In order to afford the gain of labour to the people, and at the same time to benefit the chiefs, watercourses had been made for them, and now many people were employed in making roads, which works it was in contemplation greatly to extend.

While the people were thus acquiring property and learning civilized habits, the Governor was also willing to extend his help to the chiefs, in order to improve the social condition of chiefs as well as people.

For this purpose he was willing to allow Sandilli 96*l.* per annum, and 180*l.* to be distributed among the councillors who may from time to time assist Sandilli in the government of the tribe.

The salary was to enable Sandilli to purchase for himself whatever he might require, and that he might be able to keep up his establishment and dignity as a chief.

Cases should as heretofore be brought before the chief for decision, but the Governor would appoint a suitable person to reside with the chief to hear the cases with him, and to act as his adviser in their settlement.

The Governor wished to place the chiefs in such a position that they would never be tempted to make unjust decisions, they would no longer be dependent on the uncertain proceeds of law cases and confiscations, but would have fixed and regular salaries, and for this the Governor expected that the perquisites and fines which now went to the chiefs should in future go to Government. Every one present knew quite well that it was often considered quite sufficient cause to confiscate the cattle of some unfortunate individual, because the chief or his children were hungry; the governor now offered to them a system of government and works under which no one need want. The Gaikas might perhaps not view me as a friend on the present occasion, but simply as an agent of the Government; nevertheless I had come among them to-day as a friend: my advice to them was to accept of the governor's benevolent proposal. I did not expect an answer, as Maclean was coming to announce the matter, but I had come to prepare them, that they might be able to give Maclean an answer when he came up.

The councillors who first spoke were "Holo" and "Soga:" the latter was particularly strong in his opposition to the measure, as breaking down the customs of the Kaffirs, depriving the chiefs of the concession which Sir George Cathcart had made to them of governing their people according to their own laws, that the receipt of money would bring the chiefs into trouble, and that the money which the chiefs and councillors would receive would not be equal to what they now had as a source of revenue.

It was also asked why the Governor wished to change the present system, who had complained of it, and if he could change what Sir George Cathcart had conceded to them—why cannot he change what the former Governor has done with regard to land, and restore their country to them? with other questions of a like nature, which I think it unnecessary to detail.

I answered that the Governor wished to do nothing by force; it was his desire to teach the people and to convince them by kindness; cases should still, as heretofore, be heard before the chiefs and decided by them; the Governor had issued no order abrogating any measure of Sir George Cathcart, he had simply proposed a plan for the amelioration of their condition, and those who approved of it would have it granted to them; the receipt of money could in no way bring a chief into trouble, it was only his misconduct which could bring him into trouble, and this could be the case as well without as with a salary, and that the present revenue of the chiefs was uncertain; it sometimes happened that months elapsed without any income, but now the amounts would be received regularly each month, and while hitherto, even in cases of extensive confiscation, many persons received nothing, Sandilli could now be enabled to give something to each man who may be on duty on receipt of the monthly payment.

In answer to the last question, I replied that the Governor had not made the proposal in consequence of any complaint, but as I had already stated, simply because he desired to better the condition of the Kaffirs.

After a few questions by Sandilli and his second councillor "Tyala," seeking for information on several points, Sandilli stated that he could make no answer until he had consulted the other chiefs; he said he would send to them to meet him, and when you came he would be prepared to give an answer.

The point to which Sandilli attached the greatest weight was the giving up to Government of cattle paid as fines for murders: this point appeared to be the most objectionable to Sandilli. I told him that I was not prepared to give an answer on this point, but that his Excellency had made provision for the support of the chiefs; it was therefore not intended that the chief should derive a revenue from the guilt of his people.

It is necessary that the requirements from the chiefs be explicitly stated at first; it may not be expedient strictly to insist on the fulfilment of the stipulation in the first instance, but if there is not a clear and definite understanding at the beginning of the position of the chiefs, there will be a difficulty afterwards to make any change. I think it would be well to give the chiefs at least two or three weeks to deliberate in this matter, for if, after its introduction to them, the thing is hurried on, and we manifest an anxiety for its immediate

establishment, they are less likely to fall into our views than if the matter was left more to their deliberate choice. Any manifestation of anxiety on our parts in urging the acceptance of his Excellency's proposal would assuredly be viewed with distrust by that suspicious people. In the meanwhile I will take every opportunity of seeing the chiefs and councillors, and use every endeavour, in a private way, to remove objections and prepare them for the reception of the improved form of government.

When I went to Sandilli's, I fully expected to be met as I was, but though appearances are unfavourable to the reception of the proposal, I still hope that it will be favourably received; at any rate I think that Macomo may be induced to accept of it, though it may be only on trial, and if so, I doubt not it will become a permanency with him, and that others would speedily follow his example.

I have, &c.

Colonel Maclean,
Chief Commissioner.

(Signed) Charles Brownlee,
Gaika Commissioner.

A true copy.
(Signed) George M. Shepstone,
Clerk to Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure 4 in Enclosure No. 7.

Sub-Encl. 4. in Encl. No. 7.

Sir, Dohne, October 18, 1855.

Having heard that Macomo refused to attend at Sandilli's kraal, in compliance with Sandilli's orders, to deliberate on the Governor's proposal for the better Government of the Kaffirs, I sent a message to Macomo expressing a desire to see him.

Macomo stayed here yesterday; staying one night and the greater portion of two days with me. I had a lengthened conversation with him respecting his Excellency's proposal, explaining every point. Macomo stated that, after our first interview on this subject, he had laid it before his councillors, with directions that they should give him their unbiassed opinions. He would now again lay the matter before his councillors.

He (Macomo) would at once enter into his Excellency's wishes, if the Governor made him independent of Sandilli, by giving him land elsewhere.

As Sandilli is the paramount chief of the Gaikas, Macomo would not state his views at present with regard to the proposed plan, but when Colonel Maclean came up to introduce the matter, Macomo would be prepared with his answer after hearing what Sandilli said in the matter.

I have spoken to the chiefs "Macomo," "Anta," and "Namba," on this subject; they have cautiously avoided expressing any opinion thereon, and they have invariably referred the matter to Sandilli, saying that they would answer when Colonel Maclean came to meet them.

I am not aware whether you intend to communicate with the chiefs individually or collectively; but unless you have a meeting, it is quite evident that nothing can be accomplished. As reported to you on the 9th instant, Sandilli was unable to give me an answer without consulting the chiefs, and they could make no answer before consulting Sandilli; such would still be the case should you introduce the matter to a single chief of the Gaika tribe.

Macomo appears hitherto not to have acted cordially with Sandilli in this matter; and though he may find it expedient to act for himself in opposition to Sandilli's views, I am confident he would not take the initiative: it would better suit his plans that Sandilli should first commit himself, which would give Macomo strong and evident cause for opposition and difference.

However much it may be opposed to your views, I think there is no course left open but to call a public meeting, at which the chiefs may be informed that, though one or most of them should object to the new arrangement, any one who approved of it might accept it without any reference to the others.

I have, &c.

Colonel Maclean,
Chief Commissioner, Kaffraria.

(Signed) Charles Brownlee,
Gaika Commissioner.

A true copy.
(Signed) George M. Shepstone,
Clerk to Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure 5 in Enclosure No. 7.

Sub-Encl. 5 in Encl. No. 7.

Fort Murray, October 16, 1855.

At a meeting of the Hlambie chiefs convened this day at Fort Murray, at the request of the chief Umhala, for the purpose of conveying that chief's reply to his Excellency's proposal for the better administration of justice among the natives, the chiefs named in the margin were present.

Pato.
Siwani.
Kobus Congo.
Umcoto and Siwani - Umhala's sons.
Jali and Tabai - Sons of the late chief Umkai.
Stock, of the Gaika Tribe.

Umcoto and Siwani, Umhala's sons, together with Undai, one of Umhala's principal councillors, spoke as follows:—

We have been directed by Umhala to say to Maclean that he requested the Hlambie chiefs to meet us at this (the great place), in order that all the chiefs might hear this (Umhala's) reply, through his mouthpiece Umcoto, to the Governor's proposals.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Umhala has ordered us to state that he has now well considered the Governor's proposals, and having done so, he sends to say that he accepts them, as explained to him by Maclean. Umhala called this meeting of the Hlambie chiefs, to let them hear that his voice is one with them in approving of the Governor's offer, which is as follows, viz. :—

1st. That he will give money to the chief.

2d. That the fees, which according to Kaffir custom go to the chief, will go to the Government.

3d. That the blood fines for murders, injuries received &c. will go to the injured party, or to the widow and children of the murdered person.

Umhala has also requested us to say that he only awaits further news from Maclean about this matter, that the Governor's word is good, and that it is but right and just that the fine should go to the injured party.

(Signed) Umcoto × his mark.
Siwani + his mark.
Undai × his mark.

Witness:
Pato × his mark.
Siwani × his mark.
Kobus Congo × his mark.
Jali × his mark.
Tabai × his mark.
Stock × his mark.

(Signed) John Maclean,
Chief Commissioner.

Witness and Interpreter,
(Signed) George M. Shepstone,
Clerk to Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure 6 in Enclosure No. 7.

Sub-Encl. 6 in Encl. No. 7.

Meeting with Gaika Chiefs.

Dohne, October 24 and 25, 1855.

Present; Sandilli, Macomo, Anta, Xoxo, Botman's son, Vandalla, Fyme, chief of Tyali's tribe, together with all the principal councillors of the Gaika tribes.

Chiefs, Amakapati, and Friends:—

I am glad to see you.

I have come to explain what has already been intimated to Sandilli by the "Enhosi Enkulu" Grey, and more fully communicated to you by your Commissioner, Mr. Brownlee.

You must be well aware that the aim of the Governor has been to benefit you in every way, for immediately after his arrival in the Colony, he devised means whereby the industrious obtained a chance of enriching themselves, especially as they had lost so much by the cattle epidemic; the Governor had also ordered that Kaffirs and Fingoes (as well as white men) should be employed on the various roads and public works that he was making in British Kaffraria. His aim is not, however, confined to mere temporary relief, but he has more at heart, the permanent welfare of the chiefs and their people, as I will now explain.

1st. The Governor has already given money to the mission stations to help them in building schools, where the Kaffirs might be taught, and to help them to employ artizans to teach the Kaffirs their trades.

2d. As one mode of improving the condition of the natives, the Governor had made watercourses for the chiefs, that they might not suffer in time of drought, and he hoped that, seeing the use of them, the people might adopt the same plan, and thus have no want of corn at any time.

3d. That he now wished to introduce another plan for benefitting the people, if they and the chiefs will accept it, and this he now offers to you, in the hope you will see its advantages and adopt it.

He suggests that in all cases tried before the chiefs, that the part of the fine which was to compensate the injured person or his family should as heretofore be paid to him or them, but that all that now in any case comes to the chief or to those about him was to be made over by them to Government, who would use the value for further improvement of the country and people.

By this means those about the chiefs would have no inducement to bring false charges against a man, or support such charges or advise the chief to take more than he ought from any one in the hope of sharing the spoil; and thus the people would be benefitted by being punished only when really guilty, or in proportion to their guilt.

Another advantage of this rule would be that the Government would be willing to receive money, or goods of equal amount, instead of cattle, which would be better for the people than the present system, now that through the cattle epidemic cattle are so scarce.

Then, as regards the chiefs, in order that they might not suffer by this arrangement, the Governor proposes to give them a monthly sum for their own use (a scale of which I will in due time aquaint you), and the Governor would also give a fixed sum to a certain number of councillors who may be called by the chief to advise him in these cases during the month.

In this way the chiefs and councillors will be certain of receiving a regular sum, instead of depending on the chances of enriching themselves by having a lawsuit to settle.

It is, however, by no means intended to deprive the chiefs of their power, or to change their laws; the chief would as heretofore decide on all cases, and they would decide according to their own laws and customs as heretofore. Merely the fees would go to the Government instead of to the chief. The injured person would receive full compensation, and the chiefs their salaries, and the councillors their payment in lieu of their share.

4. The Governor would appoint a person to reside in the district, to listen to each case as one of the chief's advisers, and to receive the Government fees; he would also pay the chief and the pakati the Government allowance, and act in every way as the friend of the chief and his people; he would be empowered to give such as wanted them passes to serve in the Colony, and to recommend people to be employed as workmen in Kaffraria, and in this way endeavour to forward the views of the industrious.

It now only remains to hear your decision on the proposed plan; and I again remind you that the Governor has no wish to force such a measure upon you: it is simply a part of a system now in operation, as already explained, for the welfare of the chiefs and people, and it altogether remains with you to decide whether you will accept such a humane and generous offer.

I have stated these points, and put them down in writing, that there may hereafter be no misapprehension on the subject, and that I may make an exact report to the Governor of what now passes between us.

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN,
Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure 7 in Enclosure No. 7.

Sub-Encl. 7 in Encl. No. 7.

Dohne, October 24, 1855.

AFTER about an hour's private consultation, Sandilli asked the Chief Commissioner for permission to retire with the assembled chiefs, councillors, and people, in number about 500, for the purpose of consulting with Macomo and Anta, whom he had not yet seen in the matter; consequently no answer to the Governor's proposal had yet been decided on, previous consultations having been confined to each chief with his separate councils.

Though Sandilli had arrived some time previous to the meeting, it was remarked that no recognition took place between him and the other chiefs who had arrived the previous day.

After upwards of an hour's consultation, at some distance from the Commissioner's residence, the chiefs sent to request the Chief Commissioner to allow them until next morning for further deliberation, stating that since deliberating conjointly many points suggested themselves which had not previously attracted their attention.

The meeting was therefore adjourned until daylight next morning.

Note.—That the matter had not been conjointly considered before, was owing to Macomi's refusal to attend at Sandilli's kraal after the Gaika Commissioner had made the communication to Sandilli.

October 25, 1855.—Sandilli having passed the night at a kraal in the vicinity, returned at sunrise.

After his arrival, the councillors of the various chiefs assembled to deliberate; the chiefs meanwhile taking no part in the discussion, but keeping entirely apart.

The councillors continued in discussion for three hours, and then joined the circle formed by chiefs.

Note.—Received information from two reliable sources that Macomo and Anta had made up their minds yesterday to accept the Governor's proposal, but that Sandilli, in consequence of the opposition of Holo, Soga, and other influential councillors, would not coincide with the aforenamed chiefs. At the same time Sandilli's second councillor, Tyala, advocates the view taken by Macomo and Anta.

The chiefs remained in council about one hour, and then came forward, upon which the Chief commissioner addressed them as follows:—

(*Chief Commissioner.*) I hope you have had sufficient time to deliberate on the suggestions offered to you. I am ready to hear you.

(*Macomo.*) Having deliberated, we wish that further time for deliberation may be granted, and that we may be permitted to have a general meeting of the Gaikas and Hlambies, so that our answer may be one.

(*Chief Commissioner.*) I have already explained to you that the Governor makes the offer to any chief willing to receive it, and that though one chief may not accept the proposal, another may approve and accept the Governor's generous offer; also, though accepted by chiefs individually, it is yet applicable to the Kaffirs nationally. I have consulted the Hlambies irrespective of the Gaikas. I wish every chief to consider himself a free agent in this matter.

(*Macomo.*) In all matters affecting the Kaffirs as a nation, it has been our practice to consult the Hlambies, and as the matters now under discussion affect the Kaffirs nationally, our wish is, that we may have an opportunity of ascertaining the wishes and views of the Hlambies.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

(*Chief Commissioner.*) I have endeavoured to impress upon you, that the offer made by the Governor does not abrogate your national laws: it is simply an offer for the benefit of each individual chief who likes to accept it.

(*Macomo.*) In the time of Hlambie we were one people. On the death of Hlambie the whole nation was under Gaika, and although there were a general meeting, we would not even then consider ourselves bound to come to the same conclusion as the Hlambies; each chief would be free to act for himself.

(*Chief Commissioner.*) On the death of Hlambie, the people were nominally under Gaika; yet they revolted, and did not recognize Gaika, and have ever since acted independently with regard to general meetings. That custom was broken when the Gaikas failed obeying Governor Smith's mandate to meet him in King William's Town; since that time, the tribes have been governed separately.

(*Macomo.*) Will the Chief Commissioner grant us permission to retire, and allow us time to consult privately with the Hlambies, we still reserving to ourselves the right of following our own inclinations in the matter.

(*Chief Commissioner.*) Yes, certainly; it is the Governor's desire that the whole matter should be left to your deliberate choice, and that it is not his wish to force his benevolent proposal upon you.

(*Macomo.*) We thank the Chief Commissioner for his concession to our desire. This is an important matter; we wish to take it into our serious consideration, otherwise we may make an answer which we may hereafter regret. It is our desire to communicate with the Hlambies, and when we have decided on the course which we wish to adopt, we will report the result through our commissioner to the Chief Commissioner, in order that he may again meet us.

(*Sandilli.*) Though we have given the Chief Commissioner no answer, we wish to state that there is one point which causes a difficulty with us, that is, the giving to Government the cattle which, as chiefs, we now receive.

(*Chief Commissioner.*) It appears to me that you have not asked sufficient questions, and that you may therefore not fully comprehend the intentions of the Governor; it is not the fines, but the fees of Court, which the Governor expects you to pay to Government. You as a chief hear and decide the case, you fix a fine according to the injury sustained in person or property, and it is intended that the fine be given to the injured person, or his family.

(*Sandilli*) I comprehend this, but in case of bloodshed the chiefs take the cattle of the guilty person.

(*Chief Commissioner.*) I appeal to Sandilli's own feelings, whether in a case of a poor man being murdered, and his family thereby left destitute, if it would not be an act of justice and mercy to give the offender's property to the family left destitute, rather than to the chief: the money is given to you, in order that by a departure from the native custom the chief and councillors may not be losers by the transference of the fines.

(*Sandilli.*) I do not wish yet to make any answer; but I understand the thing.

Faithfully and truly interpreted and recorded by me,

(Signed) CHARLES BROWNLEE, Gaika Commissioner.

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN, Chief Commissioner.

A true Copy,

(Signed) GEORGE M. SHEPSTONE,
Clerk to Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Encl.8 in Encl. No. 7.

Sub-Enclosure 8 in Enclosure No. 7.

MEETING WITH THE HLAMBIE CHIEFS.

Fort Murray, October 26, 1855.

Present:
Pato.
Siwani.
Kama.
Umcoto } Umhala's
Siwani } sons.
Jali and Tabai.
Toise.
Cobus Congo.
J n Tzatzoe.
Stock, of Gaika tribe.

Absent:
Umhala (sick).

THE chiefs named in the margin having, in accordance with messages from the Chief Commissioner to that effect, assembled this day:

The Chief Commissioner addressed them, their Amkapati, and people (in number about 3,000), and explained in the manner and words in which the same was set forth by the Chief Commissioner to the Gaikas, the Governor's desires and plans for the permanent benefit and welfare as well of the chiefs as of the people.

Pato, speaking in the name of himself and the other assembled chiefs, asked permission for them to retire, that with the aid of their councillors they might privately deliberate with one another on the proposed change.

The chiefs remained in council until sunset, when the chief Siwani conveyed a message to the Chief Commissioner, requesting an adjournment of the meeting until the 30th, as there were many points upon which they were anxious to consult Umhala.

Meeting adjourned accordingly.

No questions were put to the Chief Commissioner at the meeting; all detail connected with his Excellency's plans having, upon various former occasions, been explained by the Chief Commissioner to each chief individually.

October 30, 1855.—"Undai" and other councillors sent by the Hlambie chief with a special message to the chief Umhala, to obtain his opinion on the suggestions made by the Governor,

not having returned on the appointed day, the chiefs (named in the margin) arrived at different times, as noted in the margin, together with their principal councillors, and solicited an interview with the chief Commissioner, and thus addressed him:—

(*Pato.*)—I give my word to Maclean, having received no word from Umhala.

I thank Maclean for the news he has communicated to me from the Governor.

I am quite willing to accept the Governor's new system of administering justice. I also speak with the concurrence of my brother, Cobus Congo. Oct. 30, 1855.

The Governor's proposal of appointing a magistrate as my adviser is good; but I would like a man placed with me who understands me, and whom I would understand, that he may have confidence in me, and I in him, so that I may consult him privately; there is, however, one thing which we have thought it best to refer to Umhala, he being an old man and experienced, and this refers to fines for shedding of blood, or murder; such fines have hitherto, according to Kaffir custom, been taken by the chiefs. Maclean has explained that the money we are to receive from the Government is intended as an equivalent, in return for the loss of such fines.

The chiefs have deemed it right to obtain Umhalas's opinion upon this point, before giving Maclean a decided reply; Maclean has, however, given me fully to understand, that we are to receive the money in lieu of such fines as at present form our revenue, and that the fees which we now usually receive are required by the Government.

I accept the Governor's proposals.

Note.—The above was stated to me privately by "Pato," but afterwards, when reducing his statement to writing, in the presence of his brother-in-law, the Chief Stock (of the Gaika tribe), who attended him hither, he made it appear that he would await Umhala's reply before speaking publicly. Note.

Note.—As Pato has always been strengthened and supported by his brother, Cobus Congo, I beg to submit that his Excellency may be pleased to grant Cobus Congo a pension of 20*l.* per annum. Note.

Cobus Congo is about 70 years of age.

(*Toise.*) I thank Maclean for acquainting me with the news from the Governor, viz., the proposal of a new system of administering justice among the Kaffirs; as far as I am personally concerned, I quite understand the thing as explained to me by Maclean, and am perfectly satisfied with the proposed arrangement; the whole thing is good, and can be put in operation with me and my tribe whenever the Governor and Maclean please. Nov. 1, 1855.

Note.—The chief Toise states, he has heard from some of Kreli's Kaffirs that the Gaika chiefs intend first to send a message to the Hlambie chiefs, to consult them on the new system of government proposed by the Governor, after which they will send to acquaint Kreli with the matter and obtain his opinion; this is generally known to the Kaffirs. Note.

(*Siwani.*) I thank Maclean for the word from the Governor.

I joined in the war of 1846, being then but a child. I was led away by bad advice. Oct. 1, 1855.

In the war of 1850 and 1851 (or Umlangeni's war)) I gave Maclean my word to the effect that I was not going to fight with the English. I have ever since kept to my word, which Maclean can testify. I therefore still am with the Government, and what the Government say I agree to. The Governor's proposal is good and just, and I accept it. My councillors are of one word with me. The money I and my councillors are to get we will receive regularly and certain, but the fees and cases of murder are uncertain, and of very rare occurrence in my tribe.

As to my joining the other chiefs in referring the Governor's suggestion for Umhala's opinion, is merely because Umhala is an old man and a son of Hlambie. I made up my mind to accept the Governor's offer when Maclean first mentioned it to me previous to the meeting.

(*Jan Tzatzoe.*) I thank Maclean for acquainting me with the news from the Governor; it is good news, and I accept the Governor's proposals. Such chiefs and councillors, as well as people, who agree to it, will greatly benefit by it, and all the chiefs will do well in accepting so just a system of government among the Kaffirs. Nov. 1, 1855.

Note.—Kama cautiously avoided giving even a hint, either privately or when at the meeting, as to the adoption or rejection of his Excellency's proposed measures, and for fear of being asked his opinion, would not speak of it at all, but said he must return to Middledrift to consult his principal councillor, and that upon doing so he would request Mr. Superintendent Ayliff to communicate his opinion in writing. Kama. Oct. 26, 1855.

The following message was accordingly received on the 29th October 1855:

I am entirely in the hands of the English Government. I thank the Governor for saying he will give me a magistrate to attend to my tribe and to protect the widows and the helpless. My son Samuel also agrees with me. I am also anxious to bring to the notice of his Excellency "Mate" (Pato's son), residing in my location, and "Lama," my half brother, also residing in my location, that they may likewise receive a subsidy from the Government, as although they are under me, they have the immediate control of their people. I beg also that I may be allowed to choose my own magistrate. Kama. Oct. 29.

(Signed) *Kama* + his mark.
Witness.

(Signed) *James Ayliff*, Superintendent Crown Reserve.

A true copy of Kama's statement, made before Mr. Ayliff at Middledrift.

(Signed) *George M. Shepstone*,
Clerk to the Chief Commissioner.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Note.—Kama, I have reason to believe, is altogether ruled by his wife "Nongwani" (who is Macomo's sister), and he never commits himself to any opinion without Nongwani's council.

Samuel (who is Kama's eldest son) appears to me to have more influence over the tribe generally, and at present receives 20*l.* per annum, paid out of a subsidy of 60*l.* granted to Kama and his son Samuel, in consideration of faithful service in the field during the late rebellion; and I beg to recommend, that should his Excellency be pleased to authorize the payment of 84*l.* to the head of Kama's clan, as stated in the schedule annexed in his Excellency's letter of the 17th September last, that Samuel may receive 42*l.* out of that amount, and Kama will concur in this arrangement.

* Umhala's third son. Nov. 2, 1855.

(*Umshatsheni.*) I am sent by my father, Umhala, to Maclean to say, that he is very sorry he is unable to see Maclean personally, owing to ill health. Maclean knows how ill he is, having been to his kraal and seen him; he therefore sent his great son, "Umcoto," as his representative, with all the principal councillors, to the meeting to hear the "word."

I am also further directed by my father to acquaint Maclean, that he has received a message by "Undai," one of my father's principal councillors, sent by the rest of the Hlambie chiefs, after hearing what Maclean had said at the meeting about the Governor's new system of governing the Kaffirs, to acquaint Umhala of the same, and to ask his opinion on it; and that upon receipt of the message, he has sent to each Hlambie chief individually, to communicate to them the view he takes of the Governor's offer, and that upon receiving their reply he will acquaint Maclean with the same, and also his (Umhala's) own view of the Governor's proposals.

Jali and Tabai. Note. Nov. 3 1855.

Note.—Jali and Tabai, sons of the late chief Umkai, have not yet appeared; but previous to their departure on the 26th ultimo, they expressed to me privately their desire to meet his Excellency's views, but as they were young men, they did not like to speak at the meeting, and assured me that they would be altogether guided by whatever Siwani said or advised.

I may therefore close this report with the satisfaction of acquainting his Excellency, that the whole of the Hlambie chiefs (with the exception of Umhala, as above explained), and likewise the Gaika chief, Jan Tzatzoe, have cordially accepted his Excellency's suggestions for the better government of the natives, and anxiously await the further development of his Excellency's measures.

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN,
Chief Commissioner.

Faithfully and truly interpreted and recorded by me,
(Signed) GEORGE M. SHEPSTONE,
Clerk to Chief Commissioner.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir GEORGE GREY to the Right Hon. Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart.

Government House, Cape Town,
(No. 1, High Commissioner.) January 16, 1856.

(Received March 24, 1856.)
(Answered No. 46, April 1, 1856, page 46.)

SIR,

Enclosures.
No. 1. Returns of Public Works performed in British Kaffraria. (3.)
No. 2. Report of Gaika Commissioner. Dec. 11, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, copy of a Return of Public Works in British Kaffraria, performed by Kaffir labour, up to the 11th December 1855. This Return has been furnished by the Chief Commissioner, and is accompanied by a Report from the Gaika Commissioner, copy of which is also herewith enclosed.

2. Hitherto the experiment of employing the Kaffirs upon Public Works has been attended with much more success than could have been anticipated. The expenditure has, in relation to the objects arrived at, been very small. The country has been preserved in a state of profound peace. Its resources are being gradually opened up. The Kaffirs are themselves conquering their country by opening up, through their fastnesses, available roads, which will be of equal use to us either in peace or war. They are acquiring habits of industry (formerly the men never worked) and a taste for the commodities of civilised life, and are being in many other ways, either directly or indirectly, improved.

3. I feel sure that Her Majesty's advisers will always reflect with pleasure upon the important advantages which they obtained for Great Britain and this country, when they sanctioned the trial of the experiment of attempting to induce the Kaffirs to engage as labourers on great Public Works.

I have, &c.

Sir Wm. Molesworth, Bart., &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY,
High Commissioner.

Enclosure 1 in No. 10.

BRITISH KAFFRARIA.

RETURN showing the WORKS COMPLETED and in PROGRESS in the GAIKA DISTRICT, from April 21, to November 30, 1855.

Remarks.	Description of Work.	No. of Men employed.	Superintendents.	Expenditure. £ s. d.	Remarks.
Completed	Government building at Dohne, granary, store-room, &c.	50	Gaika Commissioner.	104 10 1	Building 63 feet by 17, containing three apartments and loft, used as a granary, store for tools, and sleeping apartment for workmen. 34 of the 50 men still at work.
Completed	Watercourse for Chief Sandilli.	70	Ditto -	37 3 9	Watercourse about 1½ miles long, average width 3 feet. Average depth 2 feet. Covers about 25 acres of excellent land.
Completed	Watercourse for Chief Tobo.	79	Ditto - -	43 9 0	Watercourse 1¼ miles long. Width 2½ feet. Depth 3½ feet. Covers 20 acres of land. Much rock to work through.
Completed	Watercourse for Chief Xoxo.	82	Ditto - - -	59 11 3	Watercourse 1¼ miles long. Width 2½ feet. Depth 3½ feet. Covers about 30 acres of land. Much hard work in cutting through rocks.
	Road from Dohne to King William's Town.	33	Ditto - -	307 13 0	This is a new line of road from Dohne to King William's Town, being about 8 miles shorter than the old line and much easier. The men have hitherto been employed cutting a road down the face of Dongaba Hill. A road about 22 feet wide has been scarped out of the face of the hill. The scarping averaging 4 feet in some parts, it has been necessary to build retaining walls, and double drains have been cut along the whole length of the road. 120 men have been employed on this road, but with the exception of 33, they have been removed to other places; the length of the cutting about ¾ of a mile.
	Windvogelberg Road (Neck Road)	87	Mr. H. Thompson, Clerk to Gaika Commissioner.	316 17 2	This is a road on the highway from Graham's Town and King William's Town, to Queen's Town; it had become almost impassable. A new line has been laid down, on which waggons proceed without locking a wheel. The road down the Neck is about three quarters of a mile long; it has been scarped out of the Windvogelberg Neck, which consists almost entirely of large rocks of sandstone. 2½ miles of drains have been cut, and 8 culverts made to carry off the water. This road requires very little more work to complete it; there being still a few stones in the way, which will be removed as soon as powder can be obtained. Average width of road 21 feet; length 1 mile.
Will be completed about 15th Jan.	Watercourse at Dohne.	79	Ditto - -	120 0 0	This watercourse will be about 3 miles long. Will cover about 500 acres of land; it will be of an average depth of 2½ feet, a width of 3 feet. At the commencement of the cutting, at 4 feet from the surface, and for about 300 yards, a strata of decomposed sandstone 2 feet thick had to be cut through, and there yet remains masses of hard sandstone, in extent about 100 yards, which have to be removed by blasting.
		480	- - -	£989 4 3	

December 13, 1855.

(Signed) CHARLES BROWNLEE,
Gaika Commissioner.

RETURN showing the WORKS COMPLETED and in PROGRESS in BRITISH KAFFRARIA.

Remarks.	Description of Work.	Superintendent.	European Overseers.	Native Classes. 1st.	2nd.	3rd.	Number of Men Employed.	Expenditure. £	s.	d.	Remarks.
Brought forward: Works in Gaika District - -	- - - -	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	480	989	4	3	
	Cutting Road from King William's Town to Kabousie.	Lieutenant Lamont, Kaffir Police Force.	1	2	- -	120	123	339	16	0	
	Cutting Road between King William's Town and Izele.	Captain Fielding, Kaffir Police Force.	1	3	2	62	68	139	0	9	Completed.
	Cutting Road between King William's Town and Tamacha; new line to Graham's Town.	Mr. John Keyser - - -	1	4	7	61	73	43	12	9	
Progress Reports of Works will be transmittted monthly.	Cutting and extending Watercourse at King William's Town, and past the Pensioners' Villages.	Lieutenant Tekush, Kaffir Police Force.	- -	3	- -	43	46	40	3	0	
	Cutting Road between King William's Town and East London.	Captain Fielding, Kaffir Police Force.	1	2	34	100	137	54	6	4½	
	Cutting Road at Mount Thomas	Lieutenant Collins, 60th Rifles.	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	63	9	10	Completed.
	Tools purchased for Road Parties	- - - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	219	17	2	
			4	14	43	386	927	1,889	10	1½	

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN,
Chief Commissioner.

NATIVES ACTUALLY EMPLOYED ON PUBLIC WORKS.

December 12, 1855.

Where Employed.	Number of Natives Employed.
Road from Dohne to King William's Town	33
Windvogel Berg Road	87
Watercourse at Dohne	79
Road from King William's Town to Kubusi	123
Road between King William's Town and Tamacha, new line to Graham's Town	61
Cutting and extending Waterworks at King William's Town past the Pensioners' Village	43
Repairing old road between King William's Town and East London	100
Total number of Natives employed	526

Enclosure 2 in No. 10.

Encl. 2 in No. 10.

MEMO.:— Dohne, December 11, 1855.

WITH reference to the annexed Return, the following explanatory remarks are submitted:—

The Gaikas who have been employed on public works always seek employment for a specific purpose, such as obtaining blankets, cattle, horses, and goats, some having in view the accumulation of property for its own sake, others for the purpose of obtaining wives; but from whatever motive the work is sought, the effect must be beneficial to the workman, the benefit of course being in proportion to the period of employment.

Fifty of the men at present on the works have been in the employment almost from the beginning; others have worked for periods varying from two to three months.

Of the men moved to King William's Town, about 20 have been permanently on the works. Seventy have thus been constantly employed for nearly eight months, and about three hundred have from the commencement been employed for shorter periods.

The system of classes is an inducement to many to remain for lengthened periods on the works; those who are in the first and second have never left, and others remain on the works in the hope of making themselves eligible for promotion.

The allowance of groceries to first and second classes, and the rule that they should be properly clothed, insensibly lead those people to esteem European luxuries, and it is hoped that before long most of the workmen will be induced to adopt European clothing to some extent at least.

The room now occupied by the party working here is found by them to be exceedingly comfortable and convenient, but 79 men do not find much room to sleep in a space of 33 feet by 15. Some of them therefore sleep in the police huts.

The cause of excess of expenditure over the original estimate in the Government building was principally owing to expense incurred in boarding one of the rooms and the loft, not calculated in the original estimate.

The road down the Windvogel Berg Neck is completed with the exception that some rocks, which require blasting, have not yet been removed, but as soon as the powder can be obtained the obstacles will be overcome, and the road may be finished with another week's labour.

The Windvogel Berg party is now employed in cutting a new line between the Neck and Thomas River; the road here being in a very bad state from ruts and large stones, this work may be completed in three or four weeks, and in three weeks more the road may be completed to the Thomas River.

From the Thomas River a new line will have to be taken to avoid valleys and bogs; this line will join the old road at about four miles from Dohne; it will save in distance about five miles between this and Thomas River, and will be a much more even line.

The line between this and Windvogel Berg is one which is much used by persons proceeding to King William's Town and by those coming here for timber. Should the port of East London be so far improved as to ensure direct shipping to it, and the charges of freights and landing be lowered, the trade from Queen's Town and the interior will be by this line; for until a new line is made down Kubusi Neck, all travellers would prefer this line to the one by Kubusi and Izele.

Politically, it is preferable that the line by the Dohne should be used, for in proportion to the traffic, will villages spring up along the line at favourable points, and give security to the frontier of the Queen's Town district; but if the line on the east of the Buffalo should be opened, then the most direct route for the Queen's Town traffic would be by Dohne; it is the object on this line, as well as on the other from this to King William's

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Town, to make the roads as permanent as possible: much labour has therefore been expended on such parts as are apt to fall into disrepair.

The road down to the Dongaba Hill is now almost completed; the ford at the bottom of the hill requires to be made passable, and some work requires to be done in continuing the road to the King William's Town line, as well as from the Dongaba to this Post, but the road has been used for the last two months, and the old line by Peelton has now fallen entirely into disuse.

A line which may at once be undertaken for the benefit of the Queen's Town people, is a branch from the Thorn River down the Eiland's River; this would open up the communication with the Kat River and Fort Beaufort and Graham's Town; this line could be undertaken by the Gaikas.

Another line which might be undertaken is one to branch from the Eiland's River line at Gaika-Kop, and to descend the ridge between the Tyumie and Amatole, and to enter the Tyumie valley near to Woburn. This road would form an outlet from the Lower Victoria District to Queen's Town, and would be of great advantage in case of war.

In addition to the visits of the Gaika Commissioner to the several working parties, he has visited King William's Town and Fort Murray ten times, and has made two journeys of inspection in the Gaika District in connexion with public works since June last.

(Signed) CHARLES BROWNLEE,
Gaika Commissioner.

A true copy,
(Signed) GEORGE M^{c} SHEPSTONE.

December 18, 1855.

Note.—The Queen's Town road and also the other lines suggested by Mr. Brownlee, appear to possess the following advantages:—

1st. Open communication as war roads, for the supplying posts in the Amatolas from upper districts of Cradock, Albert, &c., when it is possible that it may be impracticable to do so by any other road.

2d. The route from the interior of Amatolas to Queen's Town, 16 miles shorter than by the Dohne post.

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN,
Chief Commissioner.

No. 11.

No. 11.

Enclosures.
No. 1. Report of Lieut. Colly, Assistant Surveyor.
No. 2. Return of officers and men employed.
No. 3. Mem. of scale of pay for military working parties.
No. 4. Estimate of probable expense of 100 Pensioners' houses at King William's Town.
No. 5. Statement accounting for material, &c. supplied.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir GEORGE GREY to the Right Hon. Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart.

(No. 3, High Commissioner.)

Government House, Cape Town,
January 17, 1856.
(Received March 24, 1856.)

SIR,

ADVERTING to my Despatch,* No. 134, of the 7th of December last, in which I requested that those Pensioners who had volunteered for service in South Africa might be permitted to come to this country, I have now the honour to transmit a plan† of the village which is in the course of construction for Pensioners at King William's Town, together with a description in detail of the nature and size of the cottages.

*Page 1

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.
High Commissioner.

Sir William Molesworth, Bart.
&c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 11.

Enclosure 1 in No. 11.

SIR,

King William's Town, October 25, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a plan of the Pensioner Village being formed here, as I am now building it. Each house will contain two families, each family having two rooms, one 12 feet by 12, the other 12 feet by 8 in the clear.

The outer side of the building lots will be enclosed by a loopholed wall, shown in the plan by a red line.

The only available points, the ends of the streets, will be flanked by the schoolhouse and other buildings, either the hospital and gaol or small storehouses. The squares, coloured green in the plan, can be either left open as common pasturage, or broken up into gardens; one can be enclosed to serve as a cattle kraal.

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† Not inserted in the present Papers.

The square in the centre (210 feet) will serve as a parade ground and point of assembly. The village can be continued, as shown by the dotted lines in the plan, upon the arrival of more pensioners, still retaining its regularity and means of defence.

A portion of the loopholed wall might have been saved by having the houses at the back of the building lots, but then any sheds or other buildings subsequently erected would be in front, and spoil the appearance and regularity of the streets, whereas now such buildings will be behind the houses and almost hidden by them.

I have represented the houses in the sections as thatched, but if, as I have reason to believe, thatch cannot be obained in sufficient quantities, they will be roofed with boards covered with painted canvass.

They will be built of brick on a stone foundation, and a verandah in front will add materially to the comfort, without adding much to the expense, as the front wall, being sheltered, will be built of unburnt brick.

I have now 93 men at work daily, of whom 28 are artificers, 56 labourers, and 9 non-commissioned officers superintending the works. The whole of the village has been surveyed, and the houses marked out, and the foundations of several finished, so I hope now to build the village pretty rapidly.

The ground to be divided into acre lots has been chosen, keeping as near the river as possible, where the soil is the best, but I have not yet surveyed it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. Colly,
Lieut. 2d Regt. and Asst. Surveyor.

A true copy.
(Signed) George M. Shepstone.

Enclosure 2 in No. 11. Encl. 2 in No. 11.

Military Pensioners' Cottages.

Number of Officers and Men employed.

No.	Rank.	Remarks.
1	Captain.	14 cottages roofed, 3 of which are thatched, and the thatching of 3 others well on; also 14 cottage stone foundations laid down ready to receive the brickwork. Between 30 and 40,000 burnt brick ready for use. Door and window frames for 6 additional cottages ready for masons.
2	Subalterns.	
4	Serjeants.	
7	Corporals.	
36	Artificers.	
92	Privates.	

Amount expended to Date.

	£	s.	d.	
Pay of officers and men - - - -	295	4	0	*Vide* annexed Memo. from D. Q. M. Genl.
For material, tools, &c. - - - -	502	19	8	*See* Statements annexed.
For sharpening and repairing tools - -	1	8	10	
Total expenditure to December 11, 1855 £	799	12	6	

Enclosure 3 in No. 11. Encl. 3 in No. 11.

Deputy Quartermaster-General's Office,
Graham's Town, December 29, 1855.

Memorandum:

Scale of Pay for Military Working Parties to be employed by the Civil Authorities in Kaffraria, viz.—

Captains - - -	5*s.*, and 2*s.* 6*d.* as Acting Clerk of Works.
Subalterns - -	4*s.*
Artificers - - -	2*s.*
Serjeants - - -	1*s.*
Privates - - -	1*s.*

By command.
(Signed) E. S. Smyth, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Deputy Quartermaster General.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Enclosure 4 in No. 11.

Encl. 4 in No. 11.

King William's Town, November 16, 1855.

ESTIMATE of probable Expense of One hundred Pensioner Houses now being built at King William's Town.

	£	s.	d.
Sawn timber - - - - - -	400	0	0
Poles - - - - - -	275	0	0
Thatch - - - - - -	750	0	0
Glass - - - - - -	50	0	0
Lime - - - - - -	50	0	0
Transport - - - - - -	175	0	0
Pay of working party - - - -	1,500	0	0
	£3,200	0	0

(Signed) J. P. COLLY,
Assistant Surveyor.

Approved.
(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN, Chief Commissioner.

A true copy.
(Signed) G. M. SHEPSTONE.

Encl. 5 in No. 11.

Enclosure 5 in No. 11.

STATEMENT accounting for Material, &c. supplied for Pensioners' Cottages.

	£	s.	d.
Wood (plank and quartering) - - -	186	3	11
Poles - - - - - -	118	15	0
Thatch - - - - - -	3	15	0
Firewood - - - - - -	27	10	0
Junk - - - - - -	38	5	0
Tools - - - - -	103	0	9
Horse, cart, and harness - - - -	25	10	0
	£502	19	8

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN,
Chief Commissioner.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir GEORGE GREY to the Right Hon Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 4, High Commissioner.)

Government House, Cape Town, January 26, 1856.

(Received March 29, 1856.)
(Answered No. 50, April 7, 1856, page 47.)

SIR,

No. 46, High Commissioner, Dec. 18, 1855, page 14.

ADVERTING to my Despatch of the number and date mentioned in the margin, I have now the honour to transmit further Reports from the Chief Commissioner, from which you will learn that the Chiefs Kama and Umhala have already received the Magistrates whom I have appointed to reside with them; and that the Chiefs Siwani, Toise, Jali, Tabai, and Jan Tzatzoe have all expressed their willingness to do so.

Chief Commissioner to Private Secretary. No. 240. 20 January 1856.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, G.C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY,
High Commissioner.

(No. 240.) Enclosure in No. 12.

Encl. in No. 12.

SIR, Fort Murray, January 20, 1856.

HAVING received a message from the chief "Umhala," conveyed to me by his great-son "Umcoto," expressing the desire of the chief to receive Major Gawler as his magistrate, in the terms contained in the annexed extract from my diary, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency, that I met "Umhala" at his great place on the "Kinira" on the 19th instant, and in the presence of his principal councillors, duly installed Major Gawler as a special magistrate.

I annex a Minute of what "Umhala" urged relative to the selection of an interpreter, upon which point the chief requested time for reflection.

It will be gratifying to his Excellency to learn that the chiefs "Siwani," "Toise," "Jali," "Tabai," and "Jan Tzatzoe," have all expressed their readiness to receive magistrates of his Excellency's nomination.

The chief "Pato" still clings to a hope that his Excellency may be pleased to appoint Mr. Tainton, or my interpreter (Mr. Shepstone), as his magistrate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN,
Chief Commissioner.

Charles John Boyle, Esq.,
Private Secretary, Cape Town.

Sub-Encl. 1.

Sub-Enclosure No. 1.

EXTRACT from CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S DIARY.

8 o'clock P.M. Fort Murray, January 13, 1856.

"UMHALA'S" great-son "Umcoto," arrived together with two of "Umhala's" principal councillors ("Undai" and "Xaimpi"), and conveyed the following message from "Umhala" to the Chief Commissioner.

Tell Maclean we have been sent by "Umhala" to acquaint him that he now sees the force of Maclean's "word," and that he agrees that Major Gawler should remain near him as his (Umhala's) friend and adviser; he, therefore, now only waits for Maclean to come to his kraal and arrange what is necessary between "Umhala" and the magistrate.

A true extract.

(Signed) GEORGE M. SHEPSTONE,
Clerk to Chief Commissioner.

Sub-Encl. 2.

Sub-Enclosure No. 2.

MINUTE of what passed between the CHIEF COMMISSIONER and UMHALA.

Umhala's Great Place, Kineid River,
January 19, 1856.

I THANK Maclean for coming to see me and for leaving Major Gawler with me as my friend and adviser. I first asked to be allowed to select my own magistrate, but Maclean having told me that the Governor had specially chosen Major Gawler, knowing him to be a gentleman in every way worthy of confidence and one that would do me justice, and having thought over the Governor's "words," I now concur in what the Governor and Maclean have said.

As the Governor has put a magistrate with me of his own choice, I should like an interpreter of my own selection, one whom I know, and will send Maclean word when I have made up my mind who to take. Maclean has named Mr. Warner as the interpreter for me. I do not know him. I want a person I know. I am the head of the Hlambies, and Maclean is placed over the Hlambies and Gaikas. I therefore wish to have you (Mr. Shepstone) as my interpreter.

(*Chief Commissioner.*) You state you are the head of the Hlambies, and that I am placed over the Hlambies and Gaikas. What am I to do if Mr. Shepstone is to be taken from me? Mr. Warner was selected for you, being in every way suited for the situation, and intimately acquainted with the native laws and manners; if you can select an interpreter of good character the Governor will readily grant your request.

Questions from Umhala.

(*Umhala.*) I will think over this. The whole of the Hlambie chiefs have accepted the Governor's proposals. Will "Pato" and the other chiefs continue to receive the money given to them for good conduct during the war in addition to the new salaries?

(*Chief Commissioner.*) Certainly; the quarterly payments will be made to the Hlambie chiefs, as a proof that the Governor observed and marked their past conduct with approbation.

(*Umhala.*) I wish Maclean to speak for me, and get my allowance increased to the same scale as the other Hlambie chiefs, on account of my good conduct during the war.

(*Chief Commissioner.*) Umhala, bygones are bygones; do not enter into the subject of the last war; you know my reasons.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

(*Qirana.**) "I am an old man; I milked for Umhala when he was a child. I thank Maclean for meeting us here, and placing Major Gawler with 'Umhala.' I hope Major Gawler will keep us right. I thank Maclean for sitting with us so long, and telling us the news, and explaining everything. I have come here to see and thank Maclean."

(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN,
Chief Commissioner.

Witness.
(Signed) GEORGE M. SHEPSTONE,
Clerk and Interpreter to Chief Commissioner.

* Umhala's great Councillor.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir W. MOLESWORTH, Bart., to Governor Sir GEORGE GREY.

(No. 8.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 10, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch,* No. 14, of the 11th June, addressed to my predecessor, reporting the progress of the measures you are taking with a view to the civilization of the Gaika tribes, by their employment on Public Works, and the development of the agricultural resources of their country. I shall not fail to watch with much interest the experiment now being tried in South Africa, and I trust that the views which you entertain of its success may be realized.

* Page 1.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir George Grey, &c. &c.

(Signed) W. MOLESWORTH.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir W. MOLESWORTH, Bart., to Governor Sir GEORGE GREY.

(No. 9.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 12, 1855.

WITH reference to the eighth paragraph of Lord John Russell's Despatch, No. 23,* of the 3d of June, informing you that everything should be done to forward your design of introducing into British Kaffraria a body of Enrolled Pensioners, though it was feared that it would be found to be difficult to procure from the limited body of Pensioners a sufficient number of men fulfilling your conditions, I have to acquaint you that printed copies of terms, of which I enclose one for your information, nearly in accordance with those proposed in your Despatch, No. 37, of the 10th March, were circulated in every district throughout the United Kingdom. But there sult of these endeavours has been that only 107 candidates have offered to accept these terms, and of this number it is calculated that 20 at least are likely to fail in respect of character, or to withdraw before the time of embarkation, so that no more than 80 or 90 Pensioners could be reckoned on for a scheme which requires 1,000 to be sent out at once, with the intention of ultimately increasing their number to 5,000. You will therefore perceive that this part of your plans is impossible to be realized. I shall be ready to entertain and attentively consider any other plan which you may recommend for the more effectual protection of the eastern frontier of the Cape Colony; but for my own part, I very much doubt whether any inducements could be held out which would be sufficient to tempt persons who were made thoroughly acquainted with the state and prospects of that frontier to emigrate thither from this country. Persons wishing to leave this country (and from the state of the labour market, their number has much decreased) would far prefer to seek their fortunes in the North American or Australian colonies; especially the able-bodied and energetic, who alone would be fitted for settlers in South Africa. As to the few Pensioners who have offered to go out, it would obviously be useless to send so small a number, and they will therefore be informed that their services are declined.

* *Vide* Parliamentary Paper presented July 1855, page 72.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir George Grey, &c. &c.

(Signed) W. MOLESWORTH.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Encl. 1 in No. 2.

Conditions on which it is proposed to enrol Pensioners for Service at the Cape of Good Hope or British Kaffraria, to be located at such Posts as the Governor may select.

Character. 1. The candidates must be of good character and of industrious habits.

Age and Stature, &c. 2. They are not to exceed forty-five years of age, nor to be less than 5 feet 5 inches, of robust frame, and be medically approved as fit for the military duty occasionally required.

How to be selected. 3. They may be selected from the enrolled men, or from those reported fit for duty, but not enrolled in consequence of distance or other cause.

Non-commissioned officers. 4. Sergeants and corporals, pensioned as such, may be included in the force, one of each rank for every twenty privates.

Married men may be taken. 5. Married men with children will be selected in preference to single men; but married men with more than five children will not be accepted.

Period of enrolment. 6. The enrolment will be for seven years, to count from date of leaving the United Kingdom.

Pay and travelling allowances. 7. Pay at 1*s.* 3*d.* a day in addition to pension will be paid from date of leaving their homes till the date of embarkation, and conveyance at the public expense will be provided for the men and their families to the port of embarkation.

Free passages and rations. 8. A free passage to the Cape of Good Hope for themselves and families, with free rations as usually issued on board ship, will be granted without deduction from pension.

Advance for outfit on voyage. 9. On embarkation, an advance of three months' pension, and of one month's more for each child, will be made, to be applied, under the officer in command, in purchasing necessaries for the voyage.

Cottage and land on arrival provided. 10. On arrival at the Cape, each pensioner is to be put in possession of a cottage of two rooms, with one acre of land attached, one quarter of which will be cleared and ready for cultivation.

Advance in money to provide stock, &c. 11. On taking possession of the cottage and land, an advance of money sufficient for providing furniture, cooking utensils, stock, &c., will be granted under the direction of the officer in charge.

Advances, how repaid. 12. All advances made from pension are to be repaid from pension while on board ship and after landing, till the debt is cleared.

Terms of employment. 13. From date of embarkation no pay will be issued, but on landing the pensioner will be employed on public works, or be permitted to hire himself, provided he does not remove more than five miles from his cottage. If not able to obtain private employment, Government will find him work for the first year after landing at 1*s.* 6*d.* a day.

Terms of tenure. 14. The cottage and acre of land will be held rent free, provided the pensioner conforms to the rules and regulations laid down for his guidance, and attends regularly for military exercise twelve days in each year, and for muster every Sunday under arms at church parade. The cottages must be kept in good repair without any charge to the public.

No pay nor enrolment money annually for the twelve days' drill. 15. This service being in return for the expense in settling the pensioner, no pay nor enrolment money will be given for the annual exercise of twelve days; but if called out for a longer period, or in aid of the civil or military power, the same rates of pay as established for enrolled pensioners in the United Kingdom will be issued.

Rates of pay on other occasions of being called out.

	Called out for Exercise.	In aid of Civil or Military Power.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Private - -	2 0 a day	2 6 a day.
Corporal - -	2 6 a day	3 0 a day.
Sergeant - -	3 0 a day	3 6 a day.
Sergeant Major -	3 6 a day	4 0 a day.

Penalty for non-attendance. 16. If a pensioner fails to attend these duties he will be liable to the penalties of desertion, in addition to forfeiture of pension.

Right to cottage and land after seven years' service. 17. On completion of seven years from date of enrolment, the cottage and land will become the absolute property of the pensioner, if he has fulfilled the conditions of his agreement, and he shall then be subject to no further military duty other than that exacted from other settlers in defence of the colony.

Arrangement in case of death before completion of the seven years. 18. If a pensioner die before the termination of the seven years, the cottage and land will become the tenure of the pensioner who may fill the vacancy; but in the event of improvements having been made, they are to be valued by the officer in charge, and the amount paid to the family, by a stoppage from the in-coming pensioner. Until the arrival of the successor, the family of the deceased may occupy the holding.

Arms, accoutrements, and clothing. 19. Each pensioner shall receive arms and equipment as when enrolled in the United Kingdom; also a great coat, coat, a pair of trousers, and cap, to be worn on duty, and renewed every fourth year, as may be required.

Bounty for providing necessaries. 20. On enrolment, 1*l.* will be issued for the purpose of providing

1 fatigue jacket,
1 pair of boots,
2 shirts,
2 pair of socks,
1 black neckcloth.

These articles are to be kept up during the seven years of enrolment, without further bounty.

21. If a pensioner die or be removed before the end of the period for which his clothing is issued, it will revert to the public for the use of his successor. Clothing of a deceased or dismissed pensioner.

22. A medical officer will be attached to the force at the public expense, and afford aid to the pensioners and their families, without charge to them. He will attend to the sanatory state of the establishment. Medical aid.

23. One guinea will be allowed for the funeral expenses of a pensioner dying while enrolled. Funeral expenses.

24. No increase of pension for this service can be granted, unless in cases of pensioners being wounded or disabled in defence of the colony, when they will be allowed the usual increase for wounds received in action. Increase of pension only for wounds or being disabled in defence of colony.

25. Every pensioner during the seven years enrolment is liable to the provisions of the Mutiny Act and Articles of War. For minor offences fines may be inflicted, or expulsion from the force may be ordered by the Governor of the colony, involving deprivation of cottage and land. Subject to military law.

26. The Governor of the colony will fix the time of annual exercise, and except for Sunday muster, the pensioners are not to be called out except by him or those authorized by him. While called out the force is under the senior officer of Her Majesty's troops in the colony, as if soldiers of the regular army. Times of exercise; by whom ordered.

War Office, June 18, 1855.

3.

Cape of Good Hope.

1.

No. 3. No. 3.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir W. Molesworth, Bart., to Governor Sir George Grey.

(No. 29.)

Sir, Colonial Office, Downing Street, October 11, 1855.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch,* No. 101, of the 17th July, forwarding a copy of a letter from the Rev. W. Shaw, Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions in South Africa, detailing the results of a tour which he had recently made through British Kaffraria and Kaffraria Proper. *Page 5.

I have learnt with much satisfaction that the Kaffirs have shown an anxiety to have Industrial Schools established among them, and that such schools are in progress for the Fingoes at Heald Town and Salem.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir George Grey, &c. &c. (Signed) W. MOLESWORTH.

No. 4. No. 4.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord Panmure to Governor Sir George Grey.

(No. 40.)

Sir, Colonial Office, Downing Street, November 3, 1855.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch,* No. 103, of the 19th July, reporting that you had ordered the sum of 20,000*l.* to be drawn from the Commissariat Chest at the Cape of Good Hope, out of the 40,000*l.* voted by Parliament for the prosecution of your measures for the civilization of the Kaffirs in Kaffraria, and I have to acquaint you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have given directions to the Paymaster General to transfer from the Parliamentary grant to the Commissariat Chest Account the sum of 20,000*l.*, in repayment of the advance made from the Commissariat Chest at the Cape. *Page ~.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir George Grey, &c. &c. (Signed) PANMURE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 5.

No. 5.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Sir George Grey.

(No. 45.)

Sir, Downing Street, March 20, 1856.

I have considered with great interest and attention your Despatch (with its Enclosures), No. 46,* of the 18th December last, reporting the outline of a system for the management of British Kaffraria, by establishing European magistrates as assessors to the native Chiefs, which you were preparing to introduce, and of which the project had already been communicated to some of the Chiefs.

*Page 14.

I presume that you would not have already taken decisive measures, without having had any previous communication with Her Majesty's Government on a subject of such importance, if you had not been of opinion that any delay would endanger the success of a policy which you considered necessary to avert great calamities from the district and the neighbouring Colony, as well as calculated to promote the interests of the native inhabitants. Her Majesty's Government have so much reliance on your judgment and experience, that they will expect the result of these measures with hope, although not without some anxiety. They are, however, fully sensible of the advantage which you derive from being on the spot in forming opinions on such a subject:—And I shall at all times be most unwilling to interpose any obstacles in the way of the course which you may think it right to adopt in dealing with the native tribes; the general outlines of the policy approved by Her Majesty's Government being fully known to you, through the correspondence between this Department and yourself.

I should be glad to receive further explanation on one point. I observe that the payment by way of compensation, together with those to three of the magistrates, are estimated in the Enclosures to your Despatch at about 3,500*l.* per annum, but you have not informed me from what source this and any other expenditure, which the progress of this experiment may require, is to be defrayed. And your Despatch leads me to conclude that the fines alone cannot suffice for this purpose, as the measures which you propose will apparently reduce to a great extent the amount hitherto levied by authority of the Chiefs.

I fully agree with yourself, that the success of this measure must essentially depend upon the character and qualifications of those whom you may select to perform the difficult and important functions of magistrates under your proposed system.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir George Grey, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 6.

No. 6.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Sir George Grey.

(No. 46.)

Sir, Colonial Office, Downing Street, April 1, 1856.

I have received your Despatch,* No. 1, of 16th January, transmitting a Return of Public Works in British Kaffraria performed by Kaffir labour up to the 11th December 1855, and I have to express to you the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the success up to that date of the experiment of employing the Kaffirs upon Public Works.

*Page 34.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir George Grey, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 7.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Sir George Grey.

(No. 50.)

Sir, Colonial Office, Downing Street, April 7, 1856.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch,* No. 4, of 26th January, with its Enclosures from the Chief Commissioner of British Kaffraria, reporting that the Chiefs Kama and Umhala had already received the Magistrates who had been appointed to reside with them, and that several other Chiefs had expressed their willingness to do so.

*Page 4

I have, &c.

Governor Sir George Grey, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

RECENT EXPEDITIONS AGAINST THE MORIAH CHIEFS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA LEONE.
No. 1.

No. 1.

Copy of DESPATCH from Acting Governor Dougan to Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

(No. 126.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,
July 30, 1855.
(Received 28th August 1855.)

My Lord,

I have the honour, my Lord, of transmitting a certified copy of the Minutes of Council for the past half year, commencing on the 16th of January and ending on the 26th of June; and I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the discussions upon the Malageah expedition from page 101 to 185 inclusive.

I have, &c.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Signed) R. DOUGAN.
Acting Governor.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Encl. in No. 1.

Council Chambers, Sierra Leone, May 25, 1855.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the Acting Governor.
His Honour the Chief Justice.
The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.
The Honourable Robert Armstrong.
The Honourable J. T. Comissiong.
The Honourable C. Heddle.

The Minutes of Council of 7th May were read, and confirmed.

The Acting Governor stated he had called the Council together to inform them of the steps he had taken to recover money due from Chief of Malagea for the losses the subjects of England and France, traders in that place, had sustained in December last, in conquence of his peremptory order for them to remove their goods. The time had expired three months ago, and a few days since he sent up, through the Commodore, in H. M. S. V. "Teazer," his private secretary, to demand payment of the amount, and to render Commander Nicolas such assistance in treating with the natives as was necessary, he being well known to the people of that place. He would read to the Board that gentleman's report, which went to show that his mission had turned out unsuccessful.

Having then communicated with the Commodore, it was arranged that the same vessel should return to Malagea, and he (the Commodore) suggested the expediency of sending up 100 of the troops in garrison. The Acting Governor stated, he made a requisition for 150 men, and they accordingly embarked that evening, and sailed for the river. The men were obliged to remain on deck, but he learnt that accommodation had been made below for the officers. He had appointed Commander Nicolas, Captain Fletcher, commanding the troops, and Mr. Dillet, the private secretary, to act as commissioners for the purpose of treating with the chief, and, if necessary, to adopt hostile measures against him. The report of those gentlemen, now before the Board, stated the plain facts, and clearly proved that a great loss of life had occurred, which they attributed to the capsizing of the "pinnace." He had immediately communicated with the Commodore, to see about the wounded who had been left on the beach, and to endeavour to get the prisoners. That

SIERRA LEONE.

officer was ready and willing to give every assistance. Matters, he was of opinion, could not remain as at present. The "Teazer" was the only vessel available for the river service. On a previous expedition, the "Prometheus," drawing but ten feet, grounded in the same river, and was damaged. He had proposed to the Commodore to send up the "Pluto," and allow the "Teazer" to go to the Gambia, and request aid of the "Dover," as without such a force a heavy casualty might again ensue, in the event of further proceedings, for one vessel, if damaged, could obtain assistance from the others. He (the Acting Governor) thought it was right to ask the future advice of the Council, on account of the great loss the expedition had suffered, in having so many killed. The ammunition was found short; there were no congreve rockets in the vessel; and the men could, therefore, no longer defend themselves. He had given the "Teazer" directions to proceed to the river, and to defend the merchants there, if necessary.

Mr. Heddle thought the more immediate question was to save the lives of the people there, and protect the property. The country would be in arms from its length and breadth, and a steamer ought to be sent there, for with the power of steam she had always the means of getting out of danger.

The Chief Justice would ask whether the chief in question obtained a stipend, and whether it would not have been better to get the money by stopping his stipend.

The Colonial Secretary said there were two points: one of these involved the expression of an opinion with regard to the expeditions themselves; the other, what was best to be done under the circumstances in which we found ourselves placed; but he had no disposition to enter into consideration of the first, and would abstain from so doing. The first point would require further details than were at present before the Board, whether the commissioners had exceeded their authority, in view of the instructions they had received, which were not at present before the Board. He would direct his attention to the second point, and ask what was to be done? Hostilities, in his opinion, ought to be resorted to with the utmost caution. The natives had been made to feel their own strength, and they had discovered that a British man-of-war was not invincible. He felt humbled by the result of the expedition.

The colony was never in such a sad condition before. It required a head to conduct an embassy of that kind; and an expedition should have greater numbers and better management. It wanted a military man, trained in the military tactics, to undertake a skirmish of the description. The letter the Governor had sent with reference to the exchange of prisoners, which was to guide the commander of the "Teazer," was just the sort of letter, and contained in his opinion the present course to be pursued, demanding the surrender of the prisoners. Having done that, it was to be considered whether the traders remaining there endangered their lives and property. They ought to be required to remove themselves from a country in which they find nothing better than savages; and he would say that more caution ought to be adopted by traders in those rivers in risking so much property. He thought, for the present, there should be no further recourse to hostile measures.

Mr. Heddle remarked, no blame could be attached to the merchants. The result of the expedition had proved disastrous, but it was on the faith of treaties, that grievances had been made; and the Secretary's remarks were to him singular and strange. The measure had not been provoked by conduct of the merchants. Mr. Smyth must recollect that it arose entirely from acts of the Government, in seizing canoes and slaves at Sherbro', and killing a number of the people. That had nothing to do with the merchants. The Government ought to have been perfectly aware that it was a work of time to deter natives from slave dealing, and to have an utter abhorrence of the traffic. The Government was bound to protect the commerce of its subjects, and not only our own but others who were taken under protection. He agreed that there was no one here competent to undertake a military expedition, and for the present we could only act on the defensive.

He was sure we could not allow the matter to remain as it now was. The prestige of the colony was at stake, and on a small scale we suffered in the same manner in which the genius and energy of England had not been able to avert disaster elsewhere. Our rockets turned out a failure. He (Mr. H.) had more at stake in the river than the whole colony, but that was no cause for him to despond in the matter.

Colonial Secretary said, the honourable member had misunderstood his remarks. He did not wish to cast reflections on the merchants; but he would, in all earnestness and sobriety, as a friend of the merchants, repeat that a system was pursued on their side in a very reckless manner. He would point out to the way credit was given. No doubt it was so long before any one present had any connection with the colony, and was introduced because they relied upon Government in collecting their debts. He thought that a prudent merchant should rely upon himself; should take his goods to the safest market, and be careful not to create bad debts, or to take his goods to a market where he was likely to lose them. It was the old system of protection they relied and leaned upon, and that partly caused the reckless system of credit. He could not help knowing the system was an extensive one; it acted prejudicially on the revenue of the colony. But he would not enter into that, as it would appear a selfish motive; but he would again repeat, that they (the merchants) pursued a false and pernicious system.

The Chief Justice thought the matter quite irrelevant to the question, and wished to know what the Acting Governor proposed.

The Acting Governor said, he anticipated the arrival of the "Teazer" on the morrow, and he felt bound to protect commerce where any British subject was trading. He was prepared to adopt the plan of having the "Pluto" and "Dover," with the "Teazer," and with such a force he would be enabled to act in a manner to ensure success.

Mr. Armstrong was anxious to avert bloodshed, and trusts the sad events of the week will put a final stop to armed expeditions being sent from the colony amongst the neighbouring territories, particularly as the natives of such places are not charged before us with any atrocious crimes against the person or life of any one.

Their principal fault appears to be the nonpayment of a heavy sum of money, the promise of which was exacted from them by a large naval and military force a few months ago.

Unfortunately we have but little before us to justfy the great loss of life; but he (Mr. A.) sincerely hopes he will be spared the recurrence of such scenes at Malagea or elsewhere.

The Acting Governor differed from Mr. Armstrong, and would explain that it was for breach of treaty in the first instance. The chiefs promised to afford the traders protection, and ordered them out of the river within an unreasonable time.

The Chief Justice said he thought the statement advanced, that the late expedition was the result of the treaties entered into with the Sherbro' chiefs, and the seizure of slave canoes in their waters, was untenable, and not just to the late Governor. What were the facts? Some five or six months ago the present Acting Governor sent an expedition, consisting of a large force, to Malagea in the Mellicourie River. That expedition, as well as the late one, was undertaken without consulting the Council. But whatever might have been the grounds for the first expedition, since then every thing had been quiet in that river. Credit he believed had even been taken for that state of things, and he was not aware of any complaint having been made against the chief by the traders in that river. As to the last expedition, from the statement of the Acting-Governor to the Board it now appeared that the chief, on the occasion of the expedition in November last, gave an undertaking for about 200*l.* payable in three months, as a compensation for losses sustained by the traders in the river; that a few days ago the Acting Governor sent his private secretary in the "Teazer" to demand payment; that the chief alleged he had not the amount, but offered to pay at once $300 apparently as a compromise; and that on this being reported to the Acting Governor, he directed the "Teazer" to return to the river with 150 troops, with orders to burn the town of the chief if the amount was not paid. The "Teazer" reached Malagea on the 22d instant, and after landing the troops, and waiting about an hour, the town was set on fire, and a great part of it destroyed on that day. The next day the troops again landed to complete the destruction of the town, and then a fearful slaughter ensued, ending with a loss on our part of seventy-two men killed and missing, and eleven brought down wounded, out of 150 men embarked; the loss of the natives being estimated at several hundred persons killed, according to the statement of the Acting Governor. This result is indeed very disastrous, but he (the chief justice) apprehended it could in no wise be considered as resulting from the treaties with the Sherbro' chiefs to the south of the colony. It appeared to him that it was greatly to be regretted that the order to burn the town was given by the Acting Governor. He thought it would have been wiser to have stopped the stipend of the chief, or to have adopted some other course, instead of ordering the town to be burnt down. For even if this could have been effected without any loss of life, still it might have been considered that the natives, seeing their town and property thus destroyed, would become exasperated, and might retaliate by the destruction of the property of the British traders in those rivers, no time having been allowed them to remove their property before the expedition left the colony. He believed no disaster so great had ever before befallen this colony since it became a British settlement, and the question was, what was now to be done? He agreed with the members who had already addressed the Board, that no other expedition, situated as the colony was at present, should be sent up that river; and he thought that even should another expedition become necessary it would be better to defer it until the arrival of Governor Hill, who, from his experience at the Gold Coast, was well acquainted with native warfare. He thought, however, that every effort should be made to obtain the release of the prisoners now in the hands of the natives. It would be unjust to allow them to remain in captivity, after having imperilled their lives in the execution of the orders of the local Government. What ulterior measures may be necessary to this end must depend much upon the answers given to the message sent to the chief by the Acting Governor offering an exchange of prisoners. He would next wish to draw attention to the fact that there is a large number of natives from the neigbouring rivers residing in this town, who no doubt sympathize with their countrymen, and who are in constant communication with them. He thought it would be prudent to employ some special constables to watch these persons, so that, should they engage in any proceedings adverse to this colony, their plans might be detected, and brought to the notice of the Government. He was also of opinion, considering the small number of troops in the colony, that the militia should be embodied, and called out for training for ten days; and, if necessary, for a longer period, by a subsequent vote. It was difficult to calculate upon what might not be attempted by the natives in their present exasperated state of mind, if they thought this town defenceless, and liable to be surprised. But they would attempt nothing against the colony if they believed there was a sufficient force at our disposal to resist any act of aggression on their part. Moreover,

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this would operate upon them in a manner to dispose them to come to an amicable settlement in regard to the late unfortunate affair. The militia, when called out, he thought should be officered and drilled, so that it might act with the regular troops in the event of any emergency. The troops at the Bananas and Waterloo should also be sent for, to increase the garrison. He was also of opinion that the Commodore should be requested to allow the "Teazer" and the "Pluto" to be stationed here for a time, until matters became more settled in the neighbouring rivers. These were measures of precaution, which, if adopted, he (the chief justice) thought could do no possible harm, but which might be the means of averting much evil.

On the motion of His Honour the Chief Justice it was unanimously resolved that a vote be passed for a sum of money sufficient to enable the Acting Governor to call out the full strength of the militia for ten days training and exercise.

The Acting Governor stated he would call a Council on the arrival of the "Teazer."

The Council then adjourned.

(Signed) J. E. DILLET,
Clerk of Council.

Confirmed the 28th May 1855.

(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

Council Chambers, Sierra Leone, May 28, 1855.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the Acting Governor.
His Honour the Chief Justice.
The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.
The Honourable Robert Armstrong.
The Honourable J. T. Comissiong.
The Honourable C. Heddle.

The minutes of the proceedings of Council held on the 25th May were read, and confirmed.

The Acting Governor stated, that he had, in accordance with his promise, assembled the Council, to acquaint them of the result of the "Teazer's" visit to Malagea. She returned this morning, and brought back nine persons uninjured, who had been given up by the influence of the chief, who promised, with the aid of Touray, to exert his power to obtain more.

He (the Acting Governor) had that morning received a deputation of the merchants, and had seen several letters of theirs, detailing particulars from their correspondents, who describe the country as being in a most unsettled state. The merchants had called for protection, and wished the Commodore to remain here during the disquiet of the natives.

The Acting Governor had told them of his intention to bring the matter before Council. The "Teazer" was prepared to leave the harbour to-morrow. She was making some water, and her boilers were a little out of order, but with the kind consent of the Commodore she would be ready to go away to render every assistance to the traders in the river. The chief had stated to the French traders that he had no differences with them, but with the English alone.

He was aware the Commodore was prepared to go to Whydah; but he saw no objection to request him to remain, to await the result of present circumstances. The "Teazer" for the present could with proper ammunition do all that was required; and she could obtain proper rockets from the Ordnance. She should only act on the defensive. He was fearful sickness might break out, unless the vessel could be relieved within a certain period. The "Ferret" would soon be here from the Rio Nunez, but she could not enter very far into the river from the great depth.

His Excellency stated the militia would be enrolled to-morrow, and he had asked Captain Fletcher to send canoes for the men at Bananas. He would wish to send up officers from this Government, as it appeared the chief was anxious to offer terms, and it would be awkward if no one was there to receive his proposals. The gentlemen selected would be furnished with proper instructions, but should not be allowed to assent to anything before submitting the same to the Government. He would nominate Messrs. Mallard and M'Cormack as fit persons to be selected.

Mr. Heddle thought the presence of those gentlemen would tend to good, and any terms proposed objectionable to this Government could be modified here.

The Colonial Secretary remarked, that if conditions of peace were proposed the nature of the instructions should tend to a negotiation for the security of the merchants, and for a removal of their property from the rivers.

Mr. Heddle said the natives were too shrewd to listen to proposals of that kind. The commissioners should submit such proposals as they received, and if admissible the Government should entertain them. It would be undignified to show eagerness to settle differences, and he would be the last to consent upon such terms.

Mr. Comissiong said, with reference to the request of the merchants, he thought there could be no difference of opinion as to the expediency of requesting the Commodore

to remain in port for a short time. It appeared to him very necessary that the "Scourge" should not leave the harbour until matters were to some extent settled.

Mr. Armstrong thought the mission should be one for peace.

Mr. Heddle was of opinion that the chiefs would be prepared to settle differences which so long existed.

The Acting Governor thought the failure of the expedition was owing to gross mismanagement, and the facts would no doubt be brought to light when an inquiry was held.

Mr. Armstrong hoped all protection would be given to the traders in the Mellicourie. On the subject of hostile attacks he had already expressed an opinion. They only tended to lessen the influence with which our uncivilized neighbours have hitherto regarded British laws. He particularly entertained his Excellency's proposal to enter into negotiations for future peace.

The Chief Justice said we should be very careful in what we did, so as not to show fear. He considered it would be prudent for the "Teazer" to go to the river, but only to afford protection to those who sought it. The Commodore, he thought, should remain until matters were settled. He thought it right to send some one to receive overtures from chiefs, should they be desirous of seeking peace. The commissioners ought to be sent ostensibly to recover prisoners, and to ascertain the fate of Mr. Firth; but they should not be allowed to accept terms of peace. That should be for the consideration of the Government, who could decide upon what was correct and proper. He would advise a full inquiry to be made before the Governor and Council, to put an end to the many impressions now formed. The blame should be upon the proper shoulder. The mode His Honour suggested was to examine persons before them; and he was sure the gentlemen who had accepted a commission from the Governor (Acting) would without hesitation afford them the fullest information, which should be furnished the authorities at home.

Mr. Comissiong agreed with His Excellency the Acting Governor, that there should be an inquiry into the manner in which the expedition was conducted, as it appeared that there was gross mismanagement somewhere. He thought the inquiry necessary in order that it might be known who were to blame for its failure, the great loss of life of our soldiers, and the humiliating position in which the Government was placed.

The Colonial Secretary thought it would be out of place for us to inquire into the military conduct of the expedition. The political line was one under our province. He doubted whether the Cabinet Council would call for an explanation into the military details of the army before the Crimea.

Mr. Heddle said Parliament had the power vested in it, but he did not think the Council competent to do so.

The Acting Governor thought there would be no difficulty in obtaining answers to pertinent questions.

The Colonial Secretary said the Council was not competent to give an opinion on military matters. To obtain the end in view, he thought the Acting Governor should refer the matter to the Secretary of State, for the consideration of the Minister of War.

The Chief Justice wished it to be understood that they (the Council) were not to sit as a court-martial, but simply to arrive at the facts.

Mr. Comissiong said it was his expressed opinion that an inquiry should be instituted into the manner in which the commissioners had carried out their instructions; but as it appeared that such an inquiry would involve matters without the province of the Governor in Council, and duly considering what had fallen from the Colonial Secretary, he would not tenaciously adhere to that opinion, but was willing to adopt the course suggested by him.

The Secretary's suggestion was adopted, when Mr. Mallard alone was selected as a commissioner to be sent up in the "Teazer."

The Council then adjourned.

(Signed) J. E. Dillet,
Clerk of Council.

Confirmed, 7th June 1855.
(Signed) R. Dougan.
Acting Governor.

Council Chamber, Sierra Leone, June 7, 1855.

PRESENT:

The Acting Governor.
The Chief Justice.
The Colonial Secretary.
The Honourable R. Armstrong.
The Honourable J. T. Comissiong.
The Honourable C. Heddle.

The minutes of the proceedings of Council held on the 28th May were read, and confirmed.

The Acting Governor then read the instructions which had been furnished to Mr. Mallard, a letter from Mr Mallard, dated June 1st, and a communication from the

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Chevalier de Guillemar, French consul, enclosing a letter he had received from the chiefs of Mellicourie, asking him to exert himself to obtain peace between themselves and the Colonial Government.

Mr. Heddle remarked, that after what had been heard of the butchery of our soldiers the expressions of Bamba Lahie seemed almost a mockery. Mr. Mallard having advanced so far, any other step would stultify his proceedings.

The Colonial Secretary stated, it appeared to him that Mr. Guillemar requested to be recognised in a formal manner, as having a right to treat on behalf of the chiefs of Malagea. In following up his letter, certain proposals are made, not agreeing with the preliminaries of Mr. Mallard, to one of which the chiefs dissented; and he would wish to know whether they were made with the chiefs' consent.

One point of the preliminaries he would more particularly allude to. It appeared the chiefs objected to pay Mr. Mallard $654; but Mr. Guillemar proposes to pay within eight days $1,030. He did not think they would refuse the smaller amount, and at the same time authorize the payment of the larger within eight days. He did not think that should be the basis of negotiation; and Mr. Mallard had no authority to make it so, for at the expiration of the time they would find themselves in the same difficulty as before. It was too serious to insist upon such a condition unless full assurance was given that Bamba Lahie was in a position to pay down the money, and that it would not hereafter be a bone of contention.

He thought this was the time and place to state his views. He would assent to the acceptance of the first and third propositions of Mr. Mallard as all that should be demanded, and he was not disposed to make the $1,030 a basis of peace. He was of opinion Government had nothing to do with the money. The chiefs ought to pay the amount to Mr. Davidson, or whoever was interested. The delivery of the arms and accoutrements was right, and so was the opening of the rivers; but the money matter was likely to be an element to create subsequent discord, and there was no means of enforcing such an obligation, except by resorting to a system which was deprecated; and he would wish to avoid involving Bamba Lahie in a pecuniary difficulty. He could not see either the consistency or propriety of this Government collecting debts. He should not affirm Mr. Mallard's proposal, on the second point, even if accepted by the chief.

The Acting Governor said Mr. Guillemar had no doubt made the offer of the $1,030 without knowing of Mr. Mallard's proposals.

Mr. Heddle thought that we must be in a pitiable condition to have the mediation of the French consul. He would correct an impression of the Secretary's, that the money was a debt due to the merchants. Bamba Lahie and others owed the traders thousands; but no merchants had asked the Government to collect the debts, because they knew the system had been disallowed at home; but this was an indemnification for the losses the French and English traders sustained in removing their goods; it was for a breach of treaty. It had been communicated to the authorities at home that this amount was to be paid. The merchants and the French Government had been made acquainted with the measures adopted, and if the chiefs could be induced to pay they should, for the trouble they had given.

The Colonial Secretary would put a question. Suppose they agreed to pay in thirty days, and at the expiration of that period were not in a position so to do, what means could be adopted to make them?

Mr. Heddle thought the conditions might be modified. The honour of the Government should be saved; and he was confident the merchants in the river would give the king the amount, in order that there should be no obstacle, and to let him see the Government must be satisfied, and that this term should be carried out.

Mr. Armstrong was of opinion that it would be unjust to accept or demand any penalty from the natives of Mellicourie, who have already suffered much injury at our hands. They were not the aggressors.

The Chief Justice thought, with regard to Mr. Guillemar, that the letter from the chiefs did not authorize him to hold out such proposals, and especially as one refused our own commissioner. He did not think the letter gave him the right to act as ambassador. The credit of the colony was at stake; and as Mr. Mallard had been sent up by this Government, Mr. Guillemar should be thanked for his kind offer, stating we had already sent a commissioner to whom the chiefs were making their overtures. He thought the opening the river a point that should be insisted upon, also the procuring the arms and accoutrements of the men, and the release of such persons as still might be in their country; and unless every article of accoutrement and every prisoner who was supposed to be alive in the country were given up he (the Chief Justice) would consent to no arrangement.

He had now disposed of the first and third points; but with regard to the second they should first consider whether the Acting Governor was justified in the matter in sending the last expedition. If not, they were not now justified in maintaining the same point. He thought the payment of this balance, $600, should not be made a condition to any arrangement, inasmuch as the town had been destroyed, and a number of their people killed, and

moreover they had shown great moderation in not retaliating upon our traders by the destruction of their property, as they were entirely in their power.

The Council then adjourned.

(Signed) J. E. Dillet,
Clerk of Council.

Confirmed, 8th June 1855.
(Signed) R. Dougan,
Acting Governor.

Council Chambers, Sierra Leone, June 8, 1855.

PRESENT:

The Acting Governor.
The Chief Justice.
The Colonial Secretary.
The Honourable R. Armstrong.
The Honourable J. T. Comissiong.
The Honourable C. Heddle.

The minutes of Council of 7th instant were read, and confirmed.

Two reports from Mr. Mallard, dated 4th and 7th June, were read to the Board; a letter from the chiefs, praying the Council's forbearance in dealing with them; two reports from Commander Nicolas to Commodore Adams were also read, with a letter from Mr. Dillet, relative to certain statements made against him by the chiefs.

The Acting Governor stated that he had read the reports of Commander Nicolas to account for the time the "Teazer" had remained at Malagea, and from which it would appear she was off that place in the first instance nearly ten hours, and not the very short time the chiefs stated. However, from other matters he had determined upon causing a civil inquiry into the statements, to ascertain whether they were founded on facts or otherwise, inasmuch as it had been stated that the money had been offered and refused. He had no doubt that when certain facts were brought before the War Minister a court of inquiry would be held upon the conduct of the troops.

The Colonial Secretary thought the Acting Governor had pursued the right course in ordering a civil inquiry; the military was for the Horse Guards, the naval with the Admiralty, but the civil rested with the Executive. He (the Acting Governor) would be expected to inquire into the conduct of the civil servants of the Government.

The Chief Justice said he thought the statements contained in Mr. Mallard's report should be inquired into. He would also state, that when, on the 28th ultimo, he recommended an inquiry by the Council, the only object he had in view was to ascertain, by the examination of the commissioners employed and other persons, the real facts in relation to the expedition from its commencement to the end, in order that they might be placed before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for his consideration and decision. Such an inquiry into facts could not have been regarded as casting blame on any one beforehand, even by implication. He regretted the course he suggested had not been pursued, instead of the one adopted by the Board. Some months hence, he apprehended, it will be more difficult to arrive at all the facts relating to this matter, from the imperfection of memory and other causes. Moreover, many persons who now could have given information will then probably have left the colony.

The Colonial Secretary remarked, we could not expect the military to give statements which might be used against themselves in case of a court-martial, or enter into military details for the satisfaction of the civil officers of this Government.

Mr. Armstrong was of opinion they had not the power to summon witnesses.

The Acting Governor stated, the inquiry would not interfere with the arrangements about peace with Lahie. The river had been opened; the chiefs had given up all the arms, &c. they could find; and it could not be expected that Lahie could recover those from persons over whom he had no control. All the prisoners we knew of had been given up. With reference to the balance, he would, in consequence of the subsequent conduct of the chiefs, their having behaved well in protecting the property of the traders and their persons, be now inclined to remit it, and make no further demand.

The Collector remarked that the chief had himself asked it as a boon, and he was of opinion it should be remitted.

Mr. Heddle would remove the difficulty, in consequence of the damage the chiefs had sustained, the circumstance of their forbearance subsequently to the affair, and he would waive the objections which he insisted upon at first, in not demanding the payment of the indemnification. He thought the chiefs would expect to be secured by some convention or other instrument against any future attack.

The Chief Justice said, he thought care should be taken, in whatever arrangements might be entered into with the chiefs, that the Crown was not precluded from adopting any course it might deem fit when these matters came before the Government in England for consideration. He was not aware the Acting Governor had any power to make war on the natives. The right to make war and peace resided in the Crown alone. As regards the remark made by the honourable member, that the chiefs would expect to be secured by some convention or other instrument against any future attack, he would observe that

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when the Board on the 25th ultimo was first informed of the late expedition and its results, he (the Chief Justice) had expressed himself in disapproval of the expedition; and the Board had declared it as its opinion, that, situated as the colony was at present, no other expedition should be sent up that river. He adhered to that opinion. Nevertheless, considering that the Queen's troops had been defeated, and a steamer obliged to quit the river, he did not think that the Council should sanction the signing of any convention which might impede the free action of the Crown, until Her Majesty's pleasure shall have been made known on these matters. He concurred with the rest of the Board, that, under the circumstances, the residue of the $1,030 should be remitted; and he considered it desirable that the rivers should at once be again open to British and French traders. He thought, however, no arrangement should be made with the chiefs unless every prisoner was released, and they agreed to deliver up to this Government every article of accoutrement of our soldiers which might be found in their country. It would be discreditable to this colony to permit any of the accoutrements of our soldiers to be retained in the country, to be paraded about as trophies of a victory obtained over British troops.

The Colonial Secretary said, that the Chief Justice had given utterance to sentiments with regard to declarations of war and negotiations for peace which in his (the Colonial Secretary's) opinion were sound and constitutional. He was disposed to submit to the Chief Justice as an authority in such matters, involving, as he thought they did, questions of constitutional law. He thought that the Chief Justice should be requested to prepare something which would give an embodiment in writing to the views he had expressed, so that there might be no mistake hereafter. He (the Colonial Secretary) was one of those who thought that every member of the Council was responsible for the advice which he gave to the Governor. He would draw a distinction between acts of the Governor and Council and acts of the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. The former related to legislative enactments, the power to do which was as much in the Council as in the Governor, and there could be no legislation without the concurrence of both. The latter related to advice which the Council might tender to the Governor on points submitted to them, involving acts of the Executive which the Governor might perform without the concurrence of the Council, and for any failure in which the Governor was responsible, and not the Council, if the Governor chooses to act either against their advice or without asking it.

The following sketch of the proposed arrangements was agreed to by the Board:—

That Mr. Mallard should return, and instructions be given to him, stating that the letter of the chieftains to the Government having been considered, that the Government will make no further demand for the payment of the balance due on the $1,030; that upon their releasing all prisoners in their country, and delivering every article of arms and accoutrement which may be in their possession belonging to our troops, and opening the rivers to the trade of British and French merchants, this Government agrees to return to the amicable relations which subsisted between it and the chiefs of the Moriah country.

The Council then adjourned.

(Signed) J. E. Dillet,
Clerk of Council.

Confirmed the 26th June 1855.

(Signed) R. Dougan,
Acting Governor.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Copy of DESPATCH from Acting Governor Dougan to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State.

(No. 132.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,
July 31, 1355.

(Received August 28, 1855.)

My Lord,

In continuation of my Despatch, No. 96*, of the 12th June, I have the honour of informing your Lordship, that Mr. Mallard returned from the Mellicourie River on the 26th of that month, and has reported to me, a copy of which report I have the honour to enclose, that the king of Malagea and other chiefs, after several meetings, had accepted the proposed terms, and had also given up four more prisoners, with accoutrements, arms, &c. A copy of the convention entered into is also enclosed.

2. Previously to Mr. Mallard's leaving Malagea, a deputation of the principal headmen waited upon him, with the following requests, which they wished to be taken into consideration by this Government:—

1st. That the Governor would impress on the British traders in the river the necessity of their not interfering for the future, directly or indirectly,

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* Vide Papers presented August 1855, page 15.

with the county councils or palavers, which the deputation stated they had been in the habit of doing:

2d. That if there was any little difference between the traders and the country people that the king or alimanee should be referred to, and not that a serious matter should be made of it by writing direct to the Governor:

3d. That if the Governor sent an officer or a message to the king by a vessel of war, that directions would be given for the vessel to anchor at the entrance of the river, and that the officer should communicate or the message be delivered by boat only, as the appearance of a man-of-war at any time led the natives to believe she came with hostile intentions, and a great ferment was the usual consequence:

4th. That as the Governor had punished them by burning the greater portion of their town, that as the greater portion of their property and provisions had also been burnt, and what was not burnt had been carried away by other country people, a number of whom came more for plunder than fighting, that as the king and people were in great distress, the rains having commenced, they begged that the Governor and Council would take pity on them, and give them help.

3. I submitted these requests to the Council, and it appeared to them that the first and second had already been provided for by the existing treaty with the king of Malagea; as to the third, they were of opinion that no restriction should be placed upon vessels of war going up the Mellicourie River, as occasion might occur when it would be necessary for a ship of war to visit that river; and as to the fourth, that it could not be entertained by them.

4. I then answered the letter of the chiefs, through their alimanee (Foodie Wise), who is the king over the whole of the Mooria country, acquainting him with the result, and drawing his attention to the whole of the circumstances attending Bamba Mina Lahie's conduct to this Government since November last. A copy of this letter I have the honour to enclose.

5. I have now obtained in all, up to this date, 19 prisoners. The greater part of these were given up by the king of Malagea; the remainder were found in the mangrove bush by the side of the river. He has also delivered over the following arms and accoutrements:

1 fusil.
31 muskets.
13 pouches.
3 shell jackets.

I have also received from others, over whom the king had no control, the following:

3 fusils.
31 muskets.
14 pouches.

These muskets and fusils I have been compelled to pay for at the rate of about four dollars each.

The casualties will now stand:

25 soldiers killed and missing.
30 soldiers drowned (supposed).

There are four of the soldiers distributed in the native towns; at least so I have been informed; and I am using my best endeavours to obtain them.

The native chiefs confess they have lost about 57 (freemen) exclusive of slaves.

6. I may now, my Lord, be permitted to refer to the causes which in my opinion have led to the failure of this expedition.

Although I understood from the commander of the "Teazer" that she was supplied with congreve rockets, yet when required none were to be found, and they were then under the necessity of landing the troops to perform the work of firing the town with signal rockets and matches.

Again, when the troops were compelled to embark there were not sufficient boats to take them on board, and this was the cause of the cutter's capsizing from being overloaded, whereby about 30 men were said to be drowned. From this circumstance, also, upwards of 20 soldiers were left on the beach, and taken prisoners by the natives. There was also a want of proper ammunition (grape and cannister). The troops could thus no longer be protected by the ship, and

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several of the men as well as officers were compelled to swim off to her, and were picked up on their way.

I may here remark, my Lord, that it would have been desirable, under the circumstances in which they were placed, had the "Teazer" not returned to Malagea on the second day (particularly as about two thirds of the town had been destroyed), without seeking for further directions, so as to have procured proper ammunition and boats. Commodore Adams remained in this port during the whole of the time, and he as well as myself could have been communicated with in eight hours.

It is further to be regretted that Lieutenant Nicolas, who headed the advance party, was severely wounded at the outset. He was picked up by the first boat (the dingy) whilst about to return to the ship with Mr. Dillet, my private secretary, who, with some soldiers of the advance party, had been wounded in the early part of the skirmish in the interior of the town. He (Lieutenant N.) with difficulty succeeded in reaching the mangrove bushes near the river side, while endeavouring to find his way to the beach.

The master of the ship at this period was under arrest, and the direction of the "Teazer" necessarily devolved upon the boatswain, during this most important interval, viz., the covering the retreat of the troops.

7. It has been stated in Council that the punishment of burning the king's town was too severe for the offence committed by him, and an opinion prevails that the matter has been one of debt between the traders and the native chiefs, and that the Government should not have interfered between them.

To remove this erroneous impression I would crave your Lordship's perusal of my Despatches, No. 183, of the 31st October, and 206 and 207, of the 9th and 12th December 1854, which will at once dispel this view of the case.

I may also be permitted to say, my Lord, that it has been the universal practice of this Government, in dealing with the native chiefs, to enforce the observance of our treaties, to use coercive measures, especially after we pacifically fail in doing so; in fact it is the only mode in which we can deal with people little beyond the first stages of civilization. I have only to refer your Lordship to Acting Governor Pine's expedition to the Sherbro', Governor Macdonald's expedition to the Scarcies, and more especially that of the burning down of the town of Robat in the Great Scarcies; and latterly to Governor Kennedy's expedition to the Bullom shore.

8. Although it may be considered that the native chiefs have had the advantage over our troops at Malagea, owing to mismanagement, over which I could possibly have had no control, nevertheless, even at the present moment, I am informed they are in a great state of alarm lest we should renew hostilities.

9. Having, my Lord, fully detailed all the circumstances which led to the adoption of these measures, I trust your Lordship will consider that in so doing I have acted for the best interests of the colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Encl. 1. in No. 2.

Enclosure 1. in No. 2.

SIR, Benty, June 21, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, my proceedings since the 12th instant.

On Wednesday the 13th I received a letter from King Mimah Lahi, informing me some of the chiefs could assemble on the 14th, although his previous communication named Saturday the 16th as the day. However, under the circumstances, I thought it better to go to Malageah on the 14th, which I did, and held a very long palaver, Allimamee Wise, with the king and several of the most influential men of the country, being present. I read the demands contained in my instructions, which I had drawn up in the form of a convention, fully explaining their meaning. There was, as usual, a great deal of talking, which ended in their soliciting me still to wait until Saturday the 16th as several chiefs who were not then present were expected. To their solicitations I complied.

On Saturday the 16th I again went to Malageah, although the state of the weather when I left Benty did not make me very sanguine of bringing my mission to a close; and

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my expectations eventually proved correct, for the incessant rain entirely prevented the assembling of the people, and I was evidently not expected.

I had interviews both with the allimamee and the king, who expressed their regrets that matters would in consequence of the weather have to be postponed until the following day. Hearing from them that two soldiers were to be delivered up to me, I expressed a desire to see them, when they were sent for, and James Cumming and Charles Murray of the 3d W. I. Regiment were brought before me, the former having been seized on the 26th May, and the latter on the evening of the 23d May. I told them I should take them from Malageah on the following day, and expressed a hope to the king that they would be taken proper care of until then.

I talked with the allimamee and the king on a variety of subjects connected with the trade of the river and the policy I thought they ought to pursue, and I can only hope this visit was not without its good effects.

I left in the evening for the town of Mellicourie, where I slept, and returned on Sunday morning, accompanied by some of the English and French traders resident at that place, to Malageah, when shortly after my arrival the final palaver commenced.

I repeated to the allimamee and the king what I had said to them on Thursday. They expressed their belief that the Government was in earnest with them in making peace; and the convention was signed, and peace declared. At the same time I received the persons of James Cummings and Charles Murray, also nine muskets, seven belts, one bayonet, six bayonet scabbards, one pouch, one shell jacket, two caps, two stocks, and one cartridge-box; the latter belonging to Her Majesty's steam vessel "Teazer." The duplicate of my instructions, as also of the convention, I left with the king.

On my being about to leave, the king asked me to wait until the night tide, as he had to hold a council with the chiefs relative to some local matters he wanted laid before your Excellency. I acquiesced with his wish, and eventually a deputation of the principal men, headed by Mahommadoo Tourè, the prime minister, waited on me with the following requests:—

1st. That your Excellency would impress on the British traders in the river the necessity of their not interfering for the future, directly or indirectly, with the country councils and palavers, which the deputation stated they had been in the habit of doing:

2d. That if there was any little difference between the traders and the country people, that the king or allimamee should be referred to; and not that a serious matter should be made of it, by writing direct to your Excellency:

3d. That if your Excellency sent an officer or a message to the king by a vessel of war you would give directions for the vessel to anchor at the entrance of the river, and that the officer should communicate or the message be delivered by boat only, as the appearance of a man-of-war at any time (and more especially after the late occurrences) led the natives to believe she came with hostile intentions, and a great ferment was the usual consequence:

4th. That as your Excellency had punished them by burning the greater portion of their town, that as the greater portion of their property and provisions had also been burnt, and what was not burnt had been carried away by other country people, a number of whom came more for plunder than fighting, that as the king and people were in great distress, the rains having commenced, they begged your Excellency and your honourable Council would take pity on them, and give them help.

These requests I promised to lay before your Excellency; at the same time telling them I could hold out not the shadow of a hope that the latter would in any way be complied with, although they are very sanguine of receiving assistance.

Their privations are certainly great, and are not exaggerated, there being almost a famine in the country.

With regard to the interference of the traders with the native palavers, I think there is some cause of complaint; I speak generally; for did the traders avoid mixing themselves up with these palavers, as they are said to do, by supporting one party against another, much bad feeling amongst a people so suspicious and jealous would naturally be avoided; and as far as I have been able I have expressed my opinion on this subject both to the traders and the king.

After I left Malageah, on my asking the two soldiers if they had seen any of their comrades, they stated that when marching from the slave town where they had been kept to Malageah, the man in charge of them, on their arriving at a small town not far from Malageah, told them one of their people was there; they said they would like to see him; that he took them to where the man was, and they saw and spoke to Serjeant Simpson of the 1st West India Regiment. I immediately wrote to the king and Mahommadoo Tourè, and am glad to say the next day (19th) I received not only Serjeant Simpson but also Private Gunnell of the 1st West India Regiment, who was a prisoner in the same small town.

The king declares most emphatically that he knew nothing of their being were they were.

On the 20th, Mr. Davison, who had visited Malageah at the request of Allimamee Wise, King Lahi, and Kallimoodi, brought me down fourteen muskets, ten belts, three bayonets, four bayonet scabbards, six pouches, and two shell jackets.

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Having heard that there are more soldiers at Fouricaria, I have written to the allimamee, and requested him to give immediate directions for their being sent to Benty, should such prove the case.

Everything is now settled, and trade beginning again to flow into this and the adjacent rivers. The peace that is restored may, I think, be effectually maintained by having the rivers (the Mellicouriè particularly) visited periodically by a commissioner from the Sierra Leone Government, the duty of such commissioner to be an inquiry into any complaints the traders may have to make, as also any that the king or chief may have; the general state of trade, with any measures that may tend to increase it, with any other information likely to prove of importance. Such a visit, if made once in three months, would be the means of settling at once the petty palavers that occasionally arise, before, from their receiving small additions, they assume the serious shape they sometimes do.

Before concluding this report, I consider it my duty to inform your Excellency that I have received every possible assistance from Mr. Davison, resident at Benty, during my mission. This gentleman has, without charge, not only fed and lodged but also clothed the soldiers that have from time to time been given up.

In a letter addressed to the French traders of the Mellicouriè and adjacent rivers, I have informed these gentlemen that peace is again established.

In conclusion, I only hope I have satisfactorily carried out the instructions given me by your Excellency, and have the honour to remain,

Yours, &c.
(Signed) J. MALLARD.

His Excellency the Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 2. in No. 2.

Enclosure 2. in No. 2.

CONVENTION entered into between the Government of Sierra Leone on the one side, and Allimamee Wise, kandè of the Moriah country, Allimamee Mimah Lahi, king of Malageah, the chiefs and headmen of the Moriah country, severally and jointly, on the other side.

Article 1. The Government of Sierra Leone demands of Allimamee Wise, kandè of the Moriah country, and of Allimamee Mimah Lahi, the king of Malageah, the release of all prisoners now in their country.

Article 2. The Government of Sierra Leone demands of Allimamee Wise, kandè of the Moriah country, and Allimamee Mimah Lahi, the king of Malageah, the surrender of all arms, accoutrements, and clothing that may be in their country or in their possession belonging to the Queen's troops.

Article 3. The Government of Sierra Leone demands of Allimamee Wise, kandè of the Moriah country, and Allimamee Mimah Lahi, king of Malageah, that all the rivers and roads of the country be immediately opened for the free and undisturbed trade of British and French subjects.

Article 4. That the Government of Sierra Leone, in consideration of the entreaty conveyed to it by letter dated the 7th June 1855, from Allimamee Wise and Allimamee Mimah Lahi, will make no further demand on them for the payment of the balance due on the undertaking for 1,030 dollars.

Article 5. That in compliance with the above demands, Allimamee Wise, Allimamee Mimah Lahi, and the chiefs and headmen of the Moriah country, will severally sign this Convention, as a guarantee of their good faith for the due performance of these several Articles.

Signed and sealed in the town of Malageah in the river Mellicoorèe, this seventeenth day of June one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

(Signed in Arabic) ALLIMAMEE WISE.
KING MIMAH LAHI.
FANNAH, Chief of Malageah.
MAHOMMADOO TOURÈ, Prime Minister.
MOODAH LAHI, Chief of Phamoria.
LATTAN LAHI, Chief of Malageah.
LAHNATA BRAHMA, Chief of Mellicoorèe Town.
SARDORO LISSI, Chief of Fouricaria.
DEMBAH BAMBIAH, Chief of Kallimoodi.

(Signed) J. MALLARD,
Government Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure 2

Malageah, June 17, 1855.

WITH reference to Article 2d of the Convention this day entered into, which expresses that all accoutrements, arms, &c. are to be delivered up that may be in the country ruled over by Allimamee Wise and King Mimah Lahi,—

This Article is to be read, "that all accoutrements, arms, &c. 'possible' for them to procure are to be delivered up."

This memorandum is made to satisfy Allimamee Wise and King Mimah Lahi that "impossibilities" are not expected of them.

(Signed) J. MALLARD,
Government Commissioner.

Encl. 3. in No. 2.

Enclosure 3. in No. 2.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
MY GOOD FRIEND, July 20, 1855.

I WOULD have replied to your communication made to the Government commissioner Mr. Mallard at an earlier date, but was prevented from so doing in consequence of the indisposition of that gentleman.

I entirely approve of the conditions made by you and my commissioner.

The several points referred to of a local nature I have submitted to the Board of Council, and I have to acquaint you,

First, with reference to the interference of British traders in the country palavers,

The treaty between this Government and the chief of Malagea strictly prohibits their so doing, and I shall call their attention to the subject.

Secondly, with reference to disputes being referred to the king, instead of being made direct to this Government,

This point can only be amended by a new treaty, and I will give the matter due consideration.

Thirdly, I can place no restriction upon vessels of war going up the river; but you have my assurance that so long as the people conduct themselves properly there will be no occasion for unfriendly visits.

Fourthly, Bamba Mina Lahi is fully aware that he was seriously warned by my commissioner, who was sent to demand the money, that if the "Teazer" had occasion to return a second time for the amount his town would be destroyed, and that the responsibility would rest upon his shoulders.

I will briefly narrate the circumstances which led to this result.

The chief of Malagea in November last ordered the British and French traders, contrary to our treaties, to leave the Mellicourie in ten days, or he would not be responsible for the injuries inflicted upon themselves and property; and also allowed his people to commit outrages upon the traders in that river. I sent, on becoming acquainted with this breach of treaty, a ship of war, and a letter bearing date the 27th November 1854, to warn him of the consequences, but they were unheeded by him. I then sent an expedition of ships and soldiers to burn down his town, and punish him severely for it; but he then came to terms, and made an agreement to indemnify the traders for their loss in removing their goods from the factories. The commander of the expedition gave him three months to pay these claims. Five months passed by, and then I sent my private secretary, Mr. Dillet, to ask him for the money. He then insults the Government, by saying he would not pay the whole of the money, after he had faithfully promised by his own handwriting to do so. He cannot forget that my secretary waited off his town until eight o'clock at night, to hear from him whether he changed his mind, and would pay the money, but he never sent one word to do so. When the steamer came down without the money or a proper answer, I directed her to return with some soldiers, and I gave orders to destroy the town if the king did not act as he should. My commissioners went on shore, after they saw the white flag, the sign for peace, put up, remained for some time, and Lahi did not go to see them, after sending for him, and the "palaver" was so unsatisfactory that the town was fired, a number of our soldiers were killed; but as Lahi was sorry for what he had done, wished peace, and behaved well to the traders after the town was destroyed, the Board of Council decided that the payment of the money should not be enforced.

Nothing but his good behaviour induced us to do so; and the destruction of the town was caused by King Bamba Lahi not paying the 1,030 dollars in satisfaction for the outrages before mentioned, and which should have been forthcoming when I sent Mr. Dillet to ask for it, he having been fully warned that such would be the result.

I therefore regret it is not in my power to render you the assistance you have asked for.

I learn there remains in your country some soldiers who were taken prisoners, and who must be given up to me. I expect you will send them to me very shortly.

It is my wish to be at peace so long as the chiefs behave towards this Government in the fulfilment of the conditions of the treaties they have entered into in a becoming and upright manner.

To Alimamee Foodie Wise,
kandè of the Mooria country,
&c. &c. &c.

Your good Friend,
(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

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No. 3.

No. 3.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Dougan to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

(No. 134.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,
August 2, 1855.

My Lord, (Received August 28, 1855.)

In my Despatch, No. 96*, of the 12th June, paragraph 17, I informed your Lordship it was my intention to have an inquiry into Mr. Dillet's conduct as to the allegations of the chiefs to Mr. Mallard, that payment of the demand made upon them was offered, but refused to be received by him.

2. I have the honour of enclosing copy of my letter addressed to the colonial secretary, police magistrate, and assistant police magistrate, requesting them to proceed with the investigation, which has now been concluded; and I have also the honour to enclose the report of these gentlemen, with the statements of the several witnesses called before them.

3. After a careful perusal of these statements, I cannot come to the conclusion which the commissioners have arrived at, that the extract from Mr. Mallard's letter, as amended by the parol testimony of that gentleman, is borne out in all material particulars by the witnesses subsequently examined.

4. I will now state my reasons, my Lord, for differing with these gentlemen in opinion.

1st. As to paragraph 3.—I cannot admit the principle as correct, without some special remarks to account for it, that where a court of inquiry has been directed to be held to ascertain particular occurrences, which have been stated in writing, and forwarded to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, that these written statements should be amended by parol testimony, particularly after the party accused has been put to the trouble of obtaining witnesses to disprove them. For how does the matter stand? Mr. Mallard's amended verbal statement has completely disproved his written statement originally made. The statement also of Messrs. Bedbadère and Valentine also disproved another portion of the original statement, "That an hour was only given for the chief to pay the "demand;" whereas he had the whole day to consider the matter.

2d. As to paragraph 4.—The commissioners, in the report of their proceedings at Malagea, already forwarded to your Lordship, in my Despatch, No. 96, of the 12th June, admitted that the canoe with goods had been taken by them; and these are the same goods which Mr. Mallard has accounted for to the chiefs.

3d. As to the paragraph 5.—These gentlemen appear to have lost sight of the object for which they had assembled. An accusation was made that two chiefs had come down or were on the wharf, and pointed out certain goods to Mr. Dillet; that he took no notice of them. The statements taken, however, go to show that this accusation is totally unfounded; that no one in fact was on the wharf; that no offer was made them at that time; and yet they decided that no stress can be laid upon that statement, because the commissioners had notice that 300 dollars' worth of goods were sent to Mr. Davison (whereas these were the same goods which had been taken from the wharf, and alluded to above). This statement I particularly directed them to inquire into by my instructions, which are enclosed.

Paragraph 2.

4th. As to paragraph 6.—Bambah Lahie was fully warned that the next visit would be a hostile one, if the demand was not then settled, and yet he had the assurance to tell the traders that he would only pay 300 dollars, which confirms the report of Mr. Dillet of 21st May. However, Bambah Lahie is now held up as a straightforward man, because he promises to send goods by the next tide, which both Mr. Lyons and Mr. Bedbadère told the board he had not got, even when the "Teazer" arrived at Malageah on the 22d May.

5th. As to paragraphs 7 and 8.—The commissioners landed solely for the purpose of obtaining the money from the king, especially after he had hoisted a flag to conciliate. They had no other means of seeing the king than by going to his place of residence; and repeated messengers, it is clearly shown, were sent to the king by them, with the view of treating with him for the amount.

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* Vide Parliamentary Papers presented August 1855, page 15.

6th. As to paragraphs 9 and 10.—How could an offer of payment be attended to, when the statements proved that none was ever made to the commissioners beyond the 300 dollars before alluded to? There could have been no occasion for the king's alarm if he was prepared to have met the claim, particularly when an explanation had been given to him for displaying a white flag.

7th. As to paragraph 12.—In reviewing the statements of the chiefs furnished in the enclosed report, they appear to me to have been made with a view of deceiving the Government; and I am glad to find that the impressions formed by me, as communicated to your Lordship in my Despatch, No. 96, of the 12th of June, have been fully confirmed.

5. It appears to me, in taking a general review of the whole matters at issue, that the board has tacitly passed over the statements which so distinctly contradict Mr. Mallard's remarks respecting the horse which he stated to have been seen by himself, and which he declared Mr. Lyons informed him was the property of the king; whereas Mr. Lyons himself distinctly denies ever having said so to any one, the horse being his own property. It also appears by Mr. Mallard's report of the 4th June that certain bullocks were tied up at the wharf, which belonged to the king, whereas it is clearly established they were the property of a Sierra Leone trader. I am also surprised that the board, being composed of magistrates and justices of the peace, should have admitted hearsay statements in the course of their inquiry. It is also to be remarked, that Mr. Caille, page 18 of the appendix to the report, states distinctly that the reason the chiefs gave for ordering the traders to remove in a peremptory manner in December last was, because their slaves were taken by this Government in the Sherbro.

6. With reference to the remarks of the board respecting the burning of the town of Malageah, having already explained to your Lordship in another despatch the reasons which compelled me to adopt that course, I need not now trouble your Lordship with a recital of them.

7. Mr. Dillet was employed by me on account of his knowledge of the native character, particularly in that neighbourhood; he had long experience in dealing with them; he had successfully negotiated seven different treaties for extending British jurisdiction and suppressing the slave trade, that of the Rio Pongos, the greatest slave mart on this coast, immediately after the failure of the head of this department and others. He resided among these people for several years, where he came constantly into close contact with their habits and customs, and he was employed by my three immediate predecessors on missions to the native chiefs, and in February 1852 was thanked by the Board of the Governor and Council, and upon other occasions by the Governors individually, for services rendered.

It appears Mr. Dillet did not examine any witnesses in his defence, the evidence for the prosecution having, as he was of opinion, disproved the chiefs' statements.

8. In conclusion, I have only to remark upon the last paragraph of the report, where the board desire that these proceedings should be transmitted to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State. My Lord, it was with this view alone that I directed the inquiry to be instituted; and as two of the gentlemen composing the board were aware of this fact, the remark appears to me unnecessary and uncalled for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Enclosure 1. in No. 13.

Encl. 1. in No. 13.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
June 14, 1855.

GENTLEMEN,

1. MR. MALLARD, in his report to me of the 7th June respecting his interview with the native chiefs at Malageah, has stated that they informed him they had offered to pay Mr. Dillet goods and produce to the amount of $1,030 (dollars), previously to final hostilities having commenced, which sum he was sent up by me to demand from Bamba Mina Lahai, being the amount of his undertaking given to this Government in December last to indemnify the traders in the Mellicourie River for losses sustained by them in consequence of his unlawful acts; and as the statement has been made publicly before

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many of the traders in that river, I deem it my duty, in justice to Mr. Dillet, to cause this statement to be thoroughly investigated by a board of officers, and I have the honour to nominate you for that duty.

2. You will therefore assemble at the office of the colonial secretary, at your earliest convenience, for this purpose; and you will reduce your proceedings to writing, transmitting them, when concluded, with your report, as to the validity or otherwise of this statement, to me, for my information.

For your guidance I transmit herewith a copy of the statements from Mr. Mallard's report.

4. Mr. Dillet will attend before you at any time he may be required.

I have, &c.

The Hon. J. F. Smyth, colonial secretary,
The Hon. Robert Armstrong, police magistrate,
John Macormack, Esq., assistant police magistrate.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

Encl. 2. in No. 3.

Enclosure 2. in No. 3.

Secretary's Office, Sierra Leone,
July 27, 1855.

SIR,

Appendix A.

1. ADVERTING to your Excellency's communication, No. 101, dated 14th June 1855, which we have already had the honour to acknowledge, we now beg leave to submit copies of the examination of witnesses in the matter of inquiry referred to us.

2. Our letter of the 3d instant would inform your Excellency of the necessity which we felt for examining some of the native chiefs of Malageah; but as it did not appear to you desirable that their attendance should be invited to this colony, we proceeded to the examination of such other witnesses as we could obtain; and we now beg leave to state the conclusions at which we have arrived as the result of this inquiry.

Appendix B.

3. We are of opinion that the extract from Mr. Mallard's letter, as amended by the parol testimony of that gentleman, is borne out in all material particulars by the witnesses subsequently examined.

4. It is clearly in evidence that on the arrival of the "Teazer" at Malageah, on the 22d May, with troops on board, she found lying there the canoe with goods that had been sent to Binty to Mr. Davison, and refused.

5. We are therefore of opinion that no stress can be laid upon the fact that a portion of the statement of Mr. Mallard is to the effect that Mahmodoo Turee said to the commissioners appointed by your Excellency, on the occasion of their having landed with troops at Malageah the 22d May, "The king is not there, but here is the money to pay," or "we done send list to Dayison," for as the commissioners had previous information of these matters it is quite immaterial to the point at issue whether Mahmodoo Turee repeated them or not.

6. Although we would be careful to guard against admitting that even a refusal to pay the money would have justified such an attack as that of setting fire with lighted matches to the town of a chief in terms of amity with the Queen of England, and who had not up to that time made the slightest show of hostility, yet we think it but just to Bamba Mina Lahai to state, that even such a refusal (insufficient though it would have been) cannot be urged in extenuation of the destruction of the town of Malageah; for it would appear that whatever may have been the disposition of the chief on the first visit of the "Teazer" on the 20th May, yet upon his apprehending that she would return with troops he determined to prevent a hostile visit by paying the whole amount, and in fulfilment of this determination sent a portion thereof in goods to Mr. Davison, with a promise of sending the remainder by the next tide.

Appendix C.

7. And if upon the arrival of the "Teazer" at Binty with troops on board en route to Malageah, the commissioners, upon being put in possession of the list, and letter containing the offer which was made to Mr. Davison to send the remainder of the goods, had, instead of proceeding to Malageah, called upon Bamba Mina Lahai to make good his promise, there is no doubt from the evidence that the whole amount would have been paid, and the fearful destruction of property and loss of life, together with all the moral consequences of a defeat of our troops, been averted.

8. It is further in evidence that Bamba Mina Lahai was anxious to pay the money, and it would seem that he had been collecting his debts to assist in doing so; that he had sent to the traders in the neighbourhood to borrow goods to enable him to pay; that in the letter which he wrote to Mr. Davison, the contents of which were known to Mr. Dillet, he stated that, in addition to the goods sent in the canoe, there was at Malageah the remainder, and that it would be sent down to Binty by the next tide.

9. With regard to the non-appearance of the king when the "Teazer" visited Malageah with troops on board, we are of opinion that the testimony of Mr. Nathaniel Lyons sufficiently explains the cause, which seems to have been, that, finding the canoe with goods had been sent back from Binty, and the steamer returning, he got alarmed, and, to use the words of Mr. Lyons, "The king and people on shore saw the man-of-war coming up on "the 22d May, they put up the white flag, and run away."

10. The attack was therefore made upon the town of an unoffending and unresisting chief, after such an offer of payment as ought in our opinion to have been attended to.

11. The natives quietly submitted to the burning of their town on the 22d May, and it was not until the second landing of our troops on the 23d of May that they took up arms for the purpose of repelling further hostilities.

12. We beg leave to invite your Excellency's attention to the evidence, furnished in extenso, which we think cannot fail to place matters in such a light as to render further comment unnecessary.

13. And as it is desirable that the whole of these proceedings should be transmitted to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, we have the honour to forward this report, with its appendices, in duplicate, that one copy may be sent to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell by this mail.

We have, &c.

(Signed) J. F. Smyth,
Robert Armstrong.
John M'Cormack.

His Excellency the Acting Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix A.

Investigation into certain Statements concerning the proceedings of Mr. Dillet, an officer on the civil establishment of this colony,

Before The Honourable J. F. Smyth, The Honourable Robert Armstrong, and John M'Cormack, Esquire.

Secretary's Office, July 3, 1855.

The Colonial Secretary, in presence of Mr. Dillet, read the Governor's letter appointing the board and ordering the inquiry.

The extract from Mr. Mallard's letter having been also read, that gentleman begged to explain, that, having visited the river since the 7th, he wished to be understood that in that portion of the extract which states that on the "arrival of Mr. Dillet, the first day, he gave them an hour to pay," the first day must be taken to mean the first day of the "Teazer's" arrival with troops on board. The sentence which begins with, "The steamer left, the same afternoon a canoe with $340 (dollars) worth of goods, in charge of a chief called Fanna, was sent to Mr. Davison at Binty, &c.," refers not to the same afternoon of the day that the "Teazer" arrived with troops, but to the same afternoon of the day on which Mr. Dillet first visited Malageah in the "Teazer," at the time she proceeded there without troops. The sentence commencing with, "On the arrival of Mr. Dillet, the next morning, Mr. Davison handed him the list and letter, &c.," means Mr. Dillet's arrival on Tuesday morning the 22d May 1855 with troops on board the "Teazer."

Mr. Mallard further states, that the statements referred to in the extract of his letter produced were made to him at a general palaver at Malageah by Bamba Mina Lahai, Sattan Lahai, Mahmodoo Turee, and Fanna; that Mr. Valentine and Mahmodoo Turee interpreted, and there were also present Mr. E. Reader, Mr. Rosenbush, junior, and Mr. Davison; that he was informed by the king that Mr. Nathaniel Lyons and Mr. Valentine had made out lists of the goods that were sent, and to be sent, by canoe, to Mr. Davison at Binty; that witness applied to Mr. Davison officially for the lists said to have been sent to him, and in reply received a letter from Mr. Davison, stating that he had delivered the list to Mr. Dillet; that the canoe which conveyed the goods was said to be commanded by Fanna, the king's brother; that Mr. Davison made payment of something that he had owed the king for rent to enable him (the king) to make payment of the demand against him

Mr. Mallard further states, that it was upon the authority of Mr. Lyons that he made the statement that the horse he saw killed belonged to the king; that the horse was pointed out to witness by Mr. Shaw.

The board, consisting of Mr. Smyth and Mr. Armstrong, met on Saturday the 7th July 1855 at one o'clock, and after the proceedings of the previous meeting had been read, Mr. Mallard was asked to produce the letter from Mr. Davison, which he accordingly did. The board then adjourned to Saturday next the 14th instant at one o'clock p.m.

Mr. Caille (a trader of Mellicouri).

July 14, 1855.

I have heard that a canoe with goods had been sent to Mr. Davison at Binty. Was told by my clerk that he had seen at Fernando Po, a place near Binty, a canoe with some goods that had been sent by the king of Malageah to Mr. Davison. Witness does not know the value of the goods. Mr. Davison told witness that King Bamba Mina Lahai had sent him a canoe with about $340 or $360 worth of goods. This was told witness after the expedition. Mr. Davison also stated that he had no orders to receive the goods. Mr. Davison further stated that the canoe went back to Malageah with the goods. At the same time that the goods were sent, he (Mr. Davison) received a paper stating that there were some cattle, but they did not send the cattle. The king of Malageah had to pay about $1,200,—does not know the exact amount,—payable in three months. There was

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no portion of the money to come to the Sierra Leone Government. The money belonged to the different traders. The witness was interested to the amount of $100. The largest portion of the money belonged to Mr. Davison. Mr. Shaw, trading for Mr. Reader, was also interested. There were also three or four other merchants in the river interested to a small amount. Witness considers that the king of Malageah was the person who owed him $100. It was to reimburse him the expense he was put too in removing the goods to Fernando Po, in consequence of an order by King Bamba Mina Lahai, who had given the traders ten days to remove them, because he said that after ten days he would not be responsible for any consequence that might result to the merchants trading in the river neglecting to remove their goods. This order was given in December, because the king was vexed about his slaves who had been caught at the Sherbro'.

On the last day that the steamer was at Malageah, witness saw a canoe (a native canoe) alongside of the "Teazer." Witness saw goods pass from the canoe on board the steamer just opposite his residence. Witness saw guns, powder, white and blue bafts or cloths. They appeared to witness to have been passed into the steamer in consequence of the velocity at which the steamer was proceeding causing water to go into the canoe. The steamer appeared to stop for about ten minutes to allow the people in the canoe to pass the goods into the steamer.

Witness does not know how the canoe to which he refers came to be alongside of the "Teazer." Thinks that the canoe belonged to a man by the name of Fanna, the king's brother. Never heard that any traders put in fictitious claims for removing their goods at the time that Captain Heseltine went on the first expedition in November or December. If the $100 had been offered to witness at the time of the first expedition under Captain Heseltine he would not have received it, unless the others had consented. Has not got his money, although he (witness) was sure after he had seen the man-of-war there at Malageah in November or December that when the time was up he would get his money. All the traders imagined that at the end of three months a man-of-war would be sent up again, and they would then get their money. The traders did not think it possible that a man-of-war could fail of getting the money, and therefore they took no thought of what was to be done in case the man-of-war did not succeed in getting the money. Witness has been in trade in the Mellicouri River for about four years on his own account. During the four years that witness traded in the river he has received money from people to whom he gave credit, and who were in his debt. Never on any previous occasion did witness find it necessary to employ a man-of-war to collect his money; he collected it without one. Very few natives of the rivers keep their promises with regard to money matters. If the Government had not sent the expedition in November under Captain Heseltine, witness would never have asked Bamba Mina Lahai for the $100. At the time that Captain Heseltine went upon the expedition in November or December last, the chiefs or headmen were ready to pay, and told Captain Heseltine so. They offered horses and cattle, in presence of the traders, among whom was witness.

The payment was deferred for three months, at the wish of the traders, because they thought that at the expiry of that time they would get ground nuts, which they liked better than horses and cattle. This was the witness' own impression. The presence of the man-of-war occasionally in the rivers is a good thing, as it gives protection to the traders. Witness generally trusts to means at his own disposal for the collection of his debts, and does not trust to men-of-war for that purpose. Witness did not see the cattle that were offered to Captain Heseltine in November or December last, but witness knows that the people who made that offer were possessed of horses and cattle. The value of a bullock in the river is from eight to fifteen dollars. Witness considers that fifteen dollars is a good price for one. The value of a piece of blue baft in November and December last was $3\frac{1}{4}$. $\frac{7}{8}$ prints was of the value of $3. Common guns were of the value of $4.

(Signed) F. Caille.

Mr. Bedbadere (a resident of Malageah).

One day, after the day on which the steamer went to Malageah without troops, Bamba Minah Lahai, on seeing that the steamer had returned to Sierra Leone to get orders from the Governor, sent a canoe to Binty with $360 worth of goods, consisting of white and blue bafts, guns and powder, to present to Mr. Davison, to receive the money for the Governor. Mr. Davison (witness has been informed) told Fanna that he had no orders to receive the money. Mr. Davison kept the letter, containing a list of the goods which had been sent him by Bamba Minah Lahai. The canoe returned to Malageah with the goods. She lay for a whole night at witness' wharf; consequently witness saw the goods in her. The next morning Fanna went to Mellicourie to tell Mr. Lyons, a trader there, that Davison had not received the goods. Lyons left Mellicourie, and came with Fanna to Malageah, and intended to go himself in the canoe to Binty, to stop the steamer there on her way back to Malageah. Before Mr. Lyons could do this, at 9 o'clock in the morning the steamer returned to Malageah. She fired a large gun on the town of Malageah, and one rocket in the mangroves to the right. As soon as the natives saw this, they hoisted the white flag. The captain and troops on board then stopped firing. Captain Fletcher, Captain Nicolas, and Mr. Dillet landed at Malageah, to know from the chief why he had hoisted the white flag. There was no chief to give any answer. After having been about half an hour ashore, Captain Fletcher, Captain Nicolas, and Mr. Dillet inquired of

witness if he had a watch. Witness sent Mr. Dillet his watch. The king's son was then at the bottom of witness's piazza. Mr. Dillet said to the king's son, I give you an hour to bring the chiefs down to settle this affair. Fanna was sent to call the king, and he did not come back. In a short time, a man, by the name of Sumibah, came down to where the Commissioners were. They sent him to go and tell the king to come down. About half an hour expired and Sumibah did not come back. In five minutes after Mahmodoo Turee, one of the principal chiefs of Malageah, made his appearance. The commissioners, Messrs. Fletcher, Nicolas, and Dillet, then inquired of Mahmodoo Turee why the white flag had been hoisted. They said, we had allowed one hour; three quarters of an hour have already passed, and five minutes more remained for the king to come down. Mahmodoo Turee said he would try. The commissioners said that would not do; he must say positively he would bring the king. This they repeated three times, and Mahmodoo Turee said he could do nothing. Captain Nicolas then said to him you are a prisoner, and gave him in custody of four men, telling them they were to treat him like a gentleman and an officer. When the hour which was first given had expired, the troops came on shore, and began to destroy the town, and seized the canoe which had in the goods, and sent her (the canoe) alongside. After the town had been destroyed the troops returned on board. The town was set on fire by lighted matches in the hands of the soldiers, which they applied to the grass that covered in the roofs of the houses. Some of the rockets with which the town was set on fire were made use of on shore at the same time that some of the party applied matches. The troops, after the town had been thus fired, returned on board the "Teazer." She then proceeded to Binty. On the following morning she returned to Malageah, and landed the troops, and fired on the town from her guns on board. The Mandingoes came down upon the soldiers in great numbers, and a retreat was sounded. SIERRA LEONE

On the first day of the "Teazer's" arrival without troops, Captain Nicolas and Mr. Dillet went on shore to Bamba Mina Lahai, and asked for payment of $1,030. Bamba Mina Lahai then said that he could not pay that amount, but that he would pay 200 or 300 dollars. Captain Nicolas then said if he would give $500 they would take that, and go back. They then said they would give him four hours to consider, while they went to take a walk; and Captain Nicolas said that at four o'clock he would fire a big gun to let the king know that the time had elapsed. At four o'clock a gun was fired, and the king sent no answer. At six o'clock the traders from the town of Mellicourie, and among them witness, who lives at Malageah, went on board of the steamer, to see what was the matter that caused the steamer to come to Malageah. Captain Nicolas and Mr. Dillet said that they had come to demand $1,030, and they had received no answer from the king, so they intended to go back to Sierra Leone. They the traders said they had a large amount of property in the Mellicourie, and suppose there was a war all their property would be destroyed. The commissioners said they would go back to Sierra Leone, and fetch troops to fight, if the money was not paid. The traders remained on board, and went on to Binty in the steamer, and were landed on shore. They went to Mr. Davison, to see what was the matter. The traders said to Mr. Davison, "Do you see the steamer has come to Malageah to fight." Mr. Davison said he had nothing to do with it. They observed to Davison that he himself had about 600 bushels of ground nuts there. Mr. Davison said he could not help that; if they were burnt they were burnt. The traders went to Mr. Davison, because he was the principal man among them in the river. Among the traders who went on board the "Teazer" were some of those who were interested in the $1,030. Mr. Valentine, Mr. Dupois, and Mr. Reader were interested. Witness did not wish that the town should be attacked. Witness lost property which was burnt in Malageah to the amount of $10,400 in goods and produce.

(Signed) ETIENNE BEDBADERE.

Adjourned to Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock.

Mr. BEDBADERE (cross-examined by Mr. Dillet).

ON the first day of the steamer's arrival at Malageah, that is to say, the 20th May 1855, she remained from 10 o'clock A.M. to 8 o'clock P.M. On the second day of the steamer's visit to Malageah, that is to say, the 22d May 1855, did not hear Mahmodoo Turee make any offer of payment of money to Mr. Dillet. Witness was present during the whole of these transactions, with the exception of a few minutes. Witness heard Captain Fletcher say to Mahmodoo Turee, that he had seized the canoe with the goods; and if they would bring the remainder of the goods, to make up the money, the goods that were in the canoe should be brought back to be counted with them. The horse that was found dead at Malageah after the fight belonged to Mr. Lyons. The bullocks that were tied up at the wharf on the 22d May 1855 belonged to Mr. George Alexander Kidd. Mr. Kidd's clerk said to Captain Fletcher on the 22d, before the fight commenced, that if he, Captain Fletcher, would give him a passage to Binty he would make him a present of the bullocks. Captain Fletcher told him that if he wanted protection he must go on board of the "Teazer." King Bamba Mina Lahai, after the "Teazer" left the river, on Sunday the 20th May, sent to some of the traders in the neighbourhood to borrow goods. Witness never saw those goods. Witness thinks that the time which was given to Bamba Mina Lahai to pay the money was sufficient. Mr. Dillet said on his first visit, the 20th May,

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that he would take cloth or any description of produce that would pass in the river in payment of the debt. Mr. Dillet did not go off to the "Teazer" the day that the town was burnt, but remained on shore. Does not know how long Mr. Dillet remained on shore. Heard Mr. Dillet tell Mr. Lyons that he had the list of the goods which had been sent to Mr. Davison.

(Signed) ETIENNE BEDBADERE.

MR. NATHANIEL LYONS (a trader of Mellicourie).

On the morning of Monday the 21st May 1855, witness made out a list of goods, which were placed in a canoe, and sent to Binty, to Mr. Davison, by Bamba Mina Lahai, in charge of Fanna. Witness also wrote a letter for Bamba Mina Lahai to Mr. Davison, requesting Mr. Davison to take charge of the goods, and deliver them to the captain of the steamer when she came up again from Sierra Leone, as they expected her shortly. Witness also stated in the letter that the remaining portion of the goods were at Malageah, and would be sent down to Binty by the next tide. Witness knows that Mr. Davison received the letter, and that he acknowledged it, stating that he had no orders from the Government to receive money on their account. This money was tendered on account of the payment of $1,030 that Bamba Mina Lahai had engaged to pay some time previous. Mr. Davison is interested in the money; witness believes to the extent of $300. There are other merchants in the river also interested; viz., Mr. William Shaw, the agent of Mr. Reader; Messrs. Dupois and Preceatin; Mr. A. Valentine, Mr. F. Caillo, and Mr. Regando. These are all that witness can recollect at present. Witness is not interested himself. On the arrival of the "Teazer" at Malageah, on the 22d May 1855, she fired two shots; after which witness went alongside with Mr. Bedbadere in a canoe. Mr. Dillet asked witness if Bamba Mina Lahai was in town. Witness answered that he was. Mr. Dillet then asked witness if he would carry a message for him; to which witness answered, "Yes." Mr. Dillet told witness that while the troops were landing. He begged that witness would say to Bamba Mina Lahai that Mr. Dillet wanted to see him at the water side. Witness went to the king's yard, but did not find him there. Met Fanna, whom he sent to call Bamba Mina Lahai. Having delivered Mr. Dillet's message to Fanna, witness returned to the waterside, to see the troops land. Witness sent several messengers to call the king. The king did not make his appearance. After the troops had landed, Mr. Dillet asked for a watch, and said to witness and others who were standing by that he would give them an hour to pay the money. Before the hour had expired, Sattan Lahai and Mahmodoo Turee made their appearance. Some of the officers began to question Mahmodoo Turee. They asked him where the king was; to which he gave evasive answers; and he was ordered, witness thinks by Captain Fletcher, to be taken prisoner. After Mahmodoo Turee had been made prisoner he was asked other questions, which he refused to answer, saying, "Now that you have made me prisoner I will not say anything." After the hour had expired, another half hour was given, when the commissioners and their party began to make preparations for burning the town. Witness thinks another ten minutes were given; then the party of soldiers marched up in the town, and they began to fire from the vessel. The town was set fire to with lighted matches. The canoe which had been returned from Binty with the goods was taken alongside of the "Teazer" As soon as the firing from the vessel commenced, witness went on board. Bamba Mina Lahai had sent to some of the traders in the neighbourhood to borrow money, to assist him in paying the $1,030. Mr. Davison, witness has heard, offered to take his portion of the money, say $300, by discounting the anchorage dues that would accrue to King Bamba Mina Lahai. This offer was made at the time the three men-of-war were in the river on the first expedition in December last.

(Cross-examined by Mr. Dillet).

Did not hear Mahmodoo Turee or Sattan Lahai say to Mr. Dillet, "The king is not there, but here is the money to pay." Did not hear them say to Mr. Dillet that a list had been sent to Binty. Mr. Dillet himself told witness that he had the list. Mr. Dillet remained in the town during the time that it was being destroyed on the 22d May. The horse that was shot in the fight on the 22d of May belonged to witness. Witness has never stated to any one that the horse belonged to the king. Witness has heard since the fight that the bullocks which were tied at the wharf, and shot, on the 22d May, belonged to Mr. George Alexander Kidd of Freetown. The whole of the goods that the king sent to borrow from the traders in the neighbourhood had not arrived; say about two hundred dollars; the remainder had arrived. Witness is quite certain that if Mr. Davison had received the goods sent by the canoe to Binty, that the remainder would have been forwarded to him by the night tide. Some portion of the goods were in the town at the time the firing commenced on the 22d May, but they were not offered to Mr. Dillet. The moment that the king and people on shore saw the man-of-war coming up, on the 22d of May, they put up the white flag, and ran away. Witness thinks this is the reason why the king could not be found when asked for. The white flag was also hoisted from the steamer at the time the troops landed, and in answer to the white flag from Malageah. Witness does not think that the whole of the troops were landed on that occasion.

(Signed) NATHANIEL LYONS.

Mr. Adolf Valentine.

Is a trader in the Mellicouri River. Has heard respecting the skirmish which recently took place at Malageah. Was present in the month of December last, when a note of hand from Bamba Mina Lahai in favour of the traders was signed. This note was drawn by the commander of the "Britomart." The parties interested in the note were as follows: Mr. Davison, witness himself, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Dupois, Mr. Caille, and Mr. Regando, and Mr. Bartholomew Valentine. This note was given to indemnify the traders for expenses which they had been put to in removing their goods, in consequence of an order of the King Bamba Mina Lahai that they should remove from the river. Each man stated what was the amount of his claim, and these added together constituted the amount of the note. Witness thinks that if Captain Heseltine had asked for the money in December last Bamba Mina Lahai would have been ready to pay it; but he (Bamba Mina Lahai) was very glad when three months were offered for him to pay the money in. Witness thinks that if, instead of taking a note of hand, Captain Heseltine had demanded the money in December last, it would have been paid, and the subsequent fight would never have taken place. The traders consented,—Mr. Davision and all the others,—to three months being given to the king of Malageah, because at the end of three months ground nuts would be in, in which article they would be paid. The traders expected to be paid in ground nuts or other produce. Witness reckoned the goods for Bamba Mina Lahai on Monday the 21st May 1855. Witness saw some of these goods put into a canoe, but does not know the amount. These goods were to be sent to Mr. Davison at Binty, on account of the note for $1,030. Mr. Davison refused to take the goods. On Sunday the 20th May 1855, on the first arrival of the Teazer at Binty, without troops, witness, with several other traders, went on board the Teazer, to Mr. Dillet, to inquire what was the object of his mission, and were informed what had taken place at Malageah, that Bamba Mina Lahai had offered $300, and that the commissioners had required from him $500 on account, and that they had given him until four o'clock to give an answer whether he would pay it the next morning, when they had fired a gun, but received no answer. As witness was going on board the steamer, he was told by Mahmadoo Turee to tell Mr. Dillet that he could only pay $300 dollars. Witness did not mention this to Mr. Dillet.

(Signed) A. Valentine.

Mr. Dillet in defence states.

July 19, 1855.

The original statement of Mr. Mallard, as furnished by the extract in the Governor's letter, is incorrect, having been disproved by his subsequent explanation; and instead of one hour on the first trip without the troops, they had forty-eight hours given them. With reference to the letter and list sent to Mr. Davison, I never intended to deny having received them on my way up to Malageah, on the second trip, with the soldiers on board, having landed at Binty for the purpose of obtaining such information as might be useful in the prosecution of the mission; and the evidence of Messrs. Bedbadere and Lyons prove that I stated on the wharf at Malageah that the list and letter were in my possession. The statement with reference to Mahmodoo Turee and Sattan Lahai having come down to point out certain goods has also been disproved, inasmuch as no conversation about goods took place on that day with those parties, the whole being with reference to the king, whose presence was absolutely necessary. The statement also with reference to my having said to Lieutenant Nicolas, "Let us be off," is also unfounded, inasmuch as it has been proved that I did not leave the town until it was partly destroyed. With reference to the bullocks, which were stated to be the property of the king, and which Mahmadoo Turee has stated were tied up at the wharf, with a view of being handed over to the commissioners, this is also totally unfounded, as will appear by the testimony of Messrs. Lyons and Bedbadere. I was not at all surprised to find that statements like these were made by the chiefs. They, no doubt, have been made to cover their own delinquencies; but it was remarkably surprising to me to find that Mr. Mallard should have so positively stated that the horse he saw shot was the property of the king, and that the information he got was derived from Mr. Lyons, whereas the positive evidence of that gentleman is, that the horse was never the king's, and that he never stated it to be so. I will not longer occupy the time of the court by calling any witnesses for my defence, as I consider that the statements which have been made against me are fully disproved by the evidence of Messrs. Lyons and Bedbadere. I thank the court of inquiry for the patient hearing which they have allowed me in cross-examining the witnesses, and for its desire to arrive at the facts of the case.

(Signed) J. E. Dillet.

July 19, 1855.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing examinations were taken before us in Freetown.

(Signed) J. F. Smyth.
Robert Armstrong.
John M'Cormack.

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APPENDIX B.

EXTRACT from Mr. MALLARD'S Report, dated the 7th June 1855.

I then commenced the question of the 654 dollars; and although there was great repetition of what took place on Sunday, I conceive it better to enter into the details.

The whole of the statements were to the effect that Mr. Dillet, on his arrival the first day, gave them an hour to pay in. They told him they could not pay in that time. That he said he could not give them more. The steamer left. That same afternoon a canoe with 340 dollars' worth of goods, in charge of a chief called Fannah, was sent to Mr. Davison at Binty, with a letter, and list of the articles to be given in payment for the $1,030, it being also told Mr. Davison that another canoe with 300 dollars' worth of goods was to be sent down in the night water (night tide), and that cattle to make up the amount were to follow. When the canoe got to Binty, Mr. Davison said, "This is not my palaver; I no get order to hold these things. Take them back, and keep them close to you, to give the man-of-war when she returns;" Mr. Davison keeping the letter. On the arrival of Mr. Dillet the next morning, Mr. Davison handed him the list and letter; when Mr. Dillet said, "I am not supposed to know anything about this; it is too late now;" at the same time taking the letter and list. On the arrival of the steamer at Malageah, Mahmadoo Touray and Sattan Lahi were on the wharf, having gone down to show Mr. Dillet the goods. That no notice was taken of the goods; but that Mr. Dillet, with whom was Lieutenant Nicolas, said he must see the king. Mahmodoo Touray said, "King no there; but there's the money for pay;" and also said, "We done send list to Davidson; did he not give it you?" Mr. Dillet replied, "that Mr. Davison no give him any list; I know nothing about goods." Mr. Dillet then took out a watch, and held it in his hand, saying, "I give you five minutes to fetch the king; if he does not come I will break the town." Sattan Lahai had in the meantime gone to the king. The commander of the steamer then said to Mahmodoo Touray (who had been previously seized as a prisoner), "Four minutes are left. Can't you find the king?" Mahmadoo Touray replied, "I am a prisoner." The four minutes expired, and Mr. Dillet turned to the commander, and said, "The time is up; let's be off;" and on their getting on board the steamer commenced firing on the town. Mina Lahi had given positive orders that none of his people should fire, but some strangers in the town did fire. One canoe was taken by the steamer, and the king's store was plundered, it being on fire, while Mr. Dillet was ordering things out, which Mahmodoo Touray states he saw in possession of the men on board afterwards. That the commander stopped one man with his arms full of things. That the commander did not want to go back the second time, saying they had done enough, but that Mr. Dillet said the town was not half burnt; and the commander said, "Very well; we will go to-morrow morning. At the conclusion of this palaver the king turned to me, and said, "Sir, you done hear all this; suppose you the same as me, can you pay the money again?" I replied by saying, "I would refer the matter to your Excellency;" and the king then said he and the allimamee would write you a letter.

APPENDIX C.

SIR, Binty, June 4, 1855.

IN reply to your communication of yesterday, I have the honour to inform you that Bamba Mimah Lahi's letter to me, containing the list of goods you mention, was handed by me to the government commissioner, Mr. Dillet, on his return from Sierra Leone, with the troops on board the "Teazer," en route to Malagia.

I have, &c.,

J. Mallard, Esq., R.N., (Signed) D. H. DAVISON.
H. M. S. V. Teazer.
Off Binty.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Right Honourable Sir W. MOLESWORTH, Bart., to Governor HILL.

(No. 23.)

SIR, Downing Street, September 22, 1855.

No. 126. 30th July. No. 132. 31st July. No. 134. 2d August.

I HAVE had under my serious attention the several despatches of the numbers and dates noted in the margin from the Acting Governor of Sierra Leone, relative to the expeditions undertaken by his direction against the Moriah chiefs in the vicinity of the colony; and I enclose, for more easy reference, a portion of those despatches, which have been printed, and laid before Parliament.*

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* Vide Parliamentary papers, presented August 1855.

SIERRA LEONE.

The Acting Governor's despatch* of the 31st July, No. 132, proves beyond doubt the most culpable mismanagement of every thing connected with the last unfortunate expedition to Malageah.

* Page 8.

1st. It appears that Her Majesty's steam vessel "Teazer" had no supply of congreve rockets: and that it was only discovered, after the arrival of the ship at the mouth of the Mellicourie River, that the rockets which were on board were only signal rockets.

2d. The "Teazer" had not sufficient boats for the embarkation of the troops, and the result was that one of the boats was capsized, from being overloaded, with the loss of all the troops in her, whilst other soldiers were left in the enemy's hands for want of the means of embarking them.

The commissioners† who were employed in the expedition reported to the Acting Governor that the boat had been "perforated with balls," and that she filled on her way to the ship; but the Acting Governor reports, in his despatch of the 12th June, No. 96, that the boat had been subsequently found and given up by the natives, and that only one bullet hole was found in her near the gunwale, and too high up to have caused her to fill.

† Commander Nicolas of H.M.S. "Teazer." Capt. Fletcher, 1st W. I. Reg'. Mr. Dillet, Priv. Sec. to Acts Gov'.

3d. There was also a want of proper ammunition; for in Captain Fletcher's report to the Acting Governor it is stated, that after the natives had refused to recognize the flag of truce which had been hoisted in the "Teazer," and when the ship was descending the river, the banks of which were lined with armed men, "the whole of the shell, grape, and canister had been expended," and several of the officers and men were compelled to swim off to the ship to save themselves.

4. But the main cause of the disastrous result of the expedition was its return to Malageah upon the second day. Two thirds of the town had been destroyed, and no opposition was made by the natives until the troops were preparing to embark, when a sharp fire was opened upon them from both sides of the landing place by the enemy in ambush. This statement is made by Commander Nicolas and by Captain Fletcher respectively in their reports.

It must therefore have become evident that on returning to Malageah our troops would meet with opposition from the natives, yet, for the sake of destroying the small portion of the town which remained (the only means of doing so, as on the previous day, being with signal rockets and lucifer matches,) the expedition returned to Malageah with the deficiency in ammunition and boats which I have already noticed. The commissioners do not intimate in their report to the Acting Governor that there was any difference of opinion amongst them as to the course to be pursued; but Mr. Mallard, who was subsequently appointed to inquire into these transactions, reports that Mahmodoo Touray, the chief's prime minister, stated to him that Commander Nicolas did not want to go back the second time, saying they had done enough, but that Mr. Dillet said the town was not half burnt.

The responsibility of committing this grave error is twofold; it rests first with the person who advised so rash a measure, and secondly with the officers who yielded to that advice, at a time when the expedition was evidently not in a condition to undertake any further active operations.

I have brought these points in the military and naval conduct of the affair under the notice of Lord Panmure and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I now come to the more general question, as to the policy of these expeditions, the authority by which they were undertaken, and the justification of them on political grounds.

Mr. Armstrong remarked in the Council, that "the natives had not been charged with any atrocious crimes against the person or life of any one; their principal fault appeared to be the nonpayment of a heavy sum of money, the promise of which was exacted from them by a large naval and military force a few months before."

This statement appears to be correct; and it was in consequence of the nonpayment of this sum, after the stipulated time for paying it had expired, that the Acting Governor, Mr. Dougan, announced to the commodore on the station that the chiefs must be chastised; that the only way of punishing them was to destroy their town, and if possible to bring the king down to Sierra Leone.

I cannot repudiate too distinctly such a line of policy as this. By such

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conduct we shall never lay the foundations of civilization in Africa, and the native races there may justly accuse us of imitating their uncivilized example.

With respect to the authority under which these expeditions were undertaken, I must observe that the Governor of a colony is entitled to order every thing to be done which is requisite for its defence against hostile acts from without. There may also be cases in which to commence offensive hostilities without delay may be indispensable, in order to prevent a dangerous hostile force from accumulating; but I believe that the greater the prudence and foresight of the Governor the less likely it is that such cases should arise. No such justifying cause can possibly be alleged in the present instance. The object was simply to compel the fulfilment of a treaty, or to destroy a town if that fulfilment was not enforced. No Governor is at liberty to engage in hostilities for such a purpose as this, without previously bringing the subject before the home authorities, and receiving their permission.

Such would be the duty even of a Governor in full possession of authority; but one who is merely in the temporary administration of that office is more especially bound to act with caution and forbearance, and to leave the prosecution of measures of foreign policy to his principals, whenever he is not compelled to take more active steps, by the absolute wants of the community under his provisional charge.

Mr. Dougan, moreover, did not consult his Council before either of the expeditions were undertaken. This omission would have required very strong justification if the party so acting had been a Governor; an Acting Governor is even more strictly bound to adhere in such a matter to the ordinary and salutary rule which limits his authority; and I am much surprised that Mr. Dougan should be apparently so ignorant of the duty in this respect which was incumbent upon him as to announce to the Council that "he thought it was right to ask the future advice of the Council, on account of the great loss the expedition had suffered."

If he had consulted his Council beforehand that catastrophe might not have occurred.

In regard to the justification of the commissioners appointed by Mr. Dougan in their proceedings at Malageah, I concur generally with the report of the board of officers who were selected to inquire into those proceedings, and which is transmitted in the Acting Governor's Despatch* of 2d August, No. 143; and I am of opinion that the conduct of the commissioners cannot be justified.

*Page 14.

The evidence taken by the board proves beyond doubt that on the day on which the "Teazer" returned to Sierra Leone, in consequence of the failure of the commissioners to obtain payment from King Bamba Mina Lahai, the king sent a canoe full of goods to Binty, at the mouth of the Mellicourie River, to Mr. Davison, one of the traders, with a letter from himself, and a list of the goods, which was in part payment of the sum demanded of him. Mr. Davison declined to take charge of the goods, and the canoe returned to Malageah; but Mr. Davison retained the king's letter and the list of goods, which Mr. Dillet admits were put into his hands on the return of the expedition. Nothing, however, would satisfy Mr. Dillet but the presence of the king himself.

The evidence also proves that the king appeared to be sincere in his wishes to pay the money or to substitute goods; that he had collected debts from the traders for that purpose; and that goods were actually in store at Malageah which were intended for the same purpose.

On the return of the expedition the "Teazer" fired a shell and a rocket over the residence of the king, upon which a flag of truce was hoisted, and immediately answered by the "Teazer."

The commissioners then proceeded to the king's house, which they found deserted; but in a short time his prime minister Mahmodoo Touray appeared and joined the commissioners. Having failed in finding the king, they detained Mahmodoo Touray as a prisoner of war, while they proceeded to the accomplishment of their purpose by the destruction of the town, unopposed by the natives.

This violation of a flag of truce by the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray's person was most unjustifiable. In an expedition against uncivilized men, to punish them for an alleged breach of their engagements, it was more especially essential that the laws of war, so far as they are understood and practised among men,

both civilized and uncivilized, should have been punctiliously observed towards them.

One of the witnesses states that it was Commander Nicolas who detained Mahmodoo Touray as prisoner, and another states that he thinks it was Captain Fletcher.

It would appear, however, that those officers, as well as Mr. Dillet, concurred in this step. It will be for Lord Panmure and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to take notice of the conduct of Captain Fletcher and Commander Nicolas on that occasion; but considering Mr. Dillet's position as the Acting Governor's private secretary, and the confidence placed in him by nominating him the only civil commissioner in the expedition, I regard his conduct as highly reprehensible; in the first place for disregarding the king's letter respecting the payment which he was desirous of making in goods, and taking no pains to ascertain whether the whole payment due by the king would not have been shortly realized (the probability of which the evidence tends to prove), but insisting on the presence of the king, who had fled from his town in a state of alarm; and, secondly, in taking part in the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray, whether he did or did not direct that act, which, on the evidence before me, appears to have been a violation of the engagement implied by a flag of truce.

If competent men, with judgment and temper, had been employed, I am convinced that no force need have been used, nor blood shed. The Acting Governor had no authority nor sufficient justification for commencing the expedition; it was planned with insufficient foresight, and mismanaged in the execution, and its termination was dishonourable to the British power.

I consider that the primâ facie case, as regards the general plan and conduct of the expedition, is so grave against Mr. Dougan and Mr. Dillet, that I must require you to bring the whole of their conduct in this case under the consideration of the Council; and, unless they can be cleared from blame, you must suspend them from the performance of official duties, pending a report to me of the result of such inquiry. But the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray requires to be dealt with as a separate and serious matter; and I have to instruct you, that if Mr. Dillet cannot clear himself from the charge of breach of faith in this particular, or unless the circumstances shall wear a less unfavourable appearance on your further examination than they now do, that gentleman will be regarded as unfit to hold any position of confidence under Her Majesty's Government.

The state of affairs since the return of the expedition, as reported in the Acting Governor's despatch of 31st July, No. 132, is on the whole satisfactory, and I approve of his having acceded, with the advice of his Council, to the application of the king for a remission of all further payment due from him, in consideration of the distress occasioned by the late proceedings against him, and his having refrained from injuring in any way the traders settled in his country.

Before closing this despatch, I wish to call your attention to a system which appears to have been pursued by the Colonial Government, and which should be discountenanced as much as possible. I allude to the recovery from the natives of monies due by them to the European traders. I am aware that in the present case the losses sustained by the traders were in consequence of the forced removal of their goods, and the destruction of a portion of them; but I concur in the Colonial Secretary's remark in Council, that "he could not see either the consistency or propriety of the Colonial Government collecting debts."

Two of the traders who were examined in connexion with the late proceedings stated that the king would have made the payment demanded of him in December 1854, but that payment was then deferred for three months, at the wish of the traders, because they preferred to receive ground nuts; and one of the witnesses stated that all the traders imagined that at the end of three months a man-of-war would be sent up again, and so they took no more thought of securing payment. This witness, in addition, goes so far as to state that if the man-of-war had not appeared in December 1854 he should never have asked Bamba Mina Lahai for the sum due to him.

Without laying down any general rule as to absolute prohibitions of interference in such matters,—as I am bound to suppose that cases may arise, however rare and exceptional, in which national honour or interests may require such interference,—I would caution you to use the utmost circumspection in interposing

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the authority of the Colonial Government in the dealings between the natives and the European traders; above all, no measures involving the use of military or naval force for such a purpose should be taken, without the authority of the Home Government, which will carefully weigh the reasons adduced in favour of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. MOLESWORTH.

No. 5.

No. 5.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL to the Right Hon. Sir W. MOLESWORTH, Bart.

(No. 173.)

Government House, Sierra Leone, October 5, 1855.

SIR,

(Received November 12, 1855.)

• Page 8.

WITH reference to the Acting Governor's Despatch*, No. 132, of the 31st July, I have the honour to inform you that a few days since I received from the chief of Malageah one of the soldiers who was taken prisoner in the recent skirmish, and carried some distance into the interior of that country.

This will make twenty men who have been received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.
&c. &c.

No. 6.

No. 6.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL to the Right Hon. Sir W. MOLESWORTH, Bart.

(No. 196.)

Government House, Sierra Leone, October 22, 1855.

SIR,

(Received November 12, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that since the date of my last Despatch, No. 173, of the 5th instant, I have received another soldier (Private George Barnswell, 3d West India Regiment,) from the king of Malageah.

This will increase the number of men received to twenty-one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.
&c. &c.

No. 7.

No. 7.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HILL.

(No. 39.)

SIR,

Downing-street, November 22, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatches, Nos. 173. and 196, of the 5th and 22d October, reporting that you had received from the chief of Malageah two of the soldiers who had been taken prisoners in the late expedition against that chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

To Governor Hill,
&c. &c.

No. 8.

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No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State.

(No. 213.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,
November 17, 1855.
(Received December 19, 1855.)

SIR,

(Answered No 76, January 22, 1856, page 48.)

1. I HAVE had the honour to receive your Despatch*, No. 23, of the 22d September, on the subject of the unfortunate expedition sent from this colony on the 21st May to Malageah.

* Page 22.

2. I have given my most serious attention to your observations respecting this untoward event, and I shall not fail to bear in recollection your instructions on the proper policy to be adopted in our intercourse with the native tribes.

3. Agreeably to your desire that I should bring under the consideration of the Council the conduct of Mr. Dougan and Mr. Dillet with respect to the Malageah expedition,—

4. I furnished both those gentlemen with charges based upon the general tenor of your despatch. That against Mr. Dougan is as follows:

"For having, when Acting Governor, on the 21st day of May 1855, without authority, and on insufficient grounds, sent an expedition against the Moriah chiefs in the Mellicourie River beyond the colony, with orders to burn or destroy the town of Malageah, planned without foresight or judgment, disastrous in its termination, and disgraceful to the British power."

5. Mr. Dougan's case was gone into before the Council on the 22d instant. He declined pleading before the board, stating it to be his intention to address a letter to the Secretary of State on the subject of his defence; and he merely requested that certain despatches should be placed under the observation of the Council, which request was duly attended to. The Board of Council considering that Mr. Dougan had taken a wrong view of his position and your instructions, decided that a letter should be addressed by the clerk of that body, affording him an opportunity of defending himself before them; but this Mr. Dougan declined.

6. After a patient investigation of the charge, and mature consideration of the despatches referred to in defence, the Council were unanimous in opinion that Mr. Dougan had not cleared himself from blame, and that he should be suspended from his office of Queen's Advocate, and from his seat at the Council Board, pending your decision.

7. The Clerk of the Council, by my desire, communicated, on the 3d instant, to Mr. Dougan, by letter, this decision.

8. It is not my intention to make any acting appointment for the performance of the duties of Queen's Advocate pending your decision on Mr. Dougan's suspension from office. Should there be any cases in the courts, I will instruct Mr. Armstrong, the police magistrate, to prosecute on the part of the Crown.

9. Should it be your pleasure to confirm the suspension of Mr. Dougan, I would respectfully suggest that a qualified barrister from one of the courts in Great Britain should be appointed Queen's Advocate, as I cannot but consider the duties of this office very responsible, not only as the adviser of the Executive, but with respect to the position in the Council which places the Queen's Advocate next in executive to the Governor; and I am inclined to believe there would not be much difficulty in procuring the services of a professional gentleman of ability, when it is taken into consideration that the salary attached to the office is 500*l.* a year, and the private practice may fairly be estimated at an additional 500*l.* per annum.

With the exception of Mr. Montague, there is no person in this colony of sufficient experience or standing qualified for the office of Queen's Advocate.

10. In closing this despatch, I have much pleasure in expressing my opinion that the failure of the expedition to Malageah has not been productive of the amount of evil anticipated. I continue to receive friendly assurances from all the native chiefs, more particularly from those of the Moriah country, including King Bamba Mimah Lahai, who has exerted himself in a very praiseworthy manner to recover any soldiers taken prisoners by the natives, and out of the number returned as killed or missing no less than twenty-one soldiers have been sent into this Government, all of whom declare that they received no unkind treatment from their captors.

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The truth is, the natives were alarmed at their unexpected success, knowing and fearing the power of England; and I have had since my arrival much trouble to convince them that I had no intention of renewing hostilities.

11. Copies of all the correspondence alluded to, or laid before the Board of Council in the investigation, together with the minutes thereof in this particular, are submitted herewith, for your information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Encl. 1. in No. 8.

Enclosure 1. in No. 8.

Council Chambers, Sierra Leone, November 2, 1855.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the Governor.
His Honour the Chief Justice.
The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.
The Honourable Robert Armstrong.
The Honourable J. T. Commissiong.
The Honourable Charles Heddle.

ABSENT:

The Honourable the Queen's Advocate.

His Excellency the Governor thus addressed the Council,—

Gentlemen,—I have called you together that you may hear read to you a despatch from the Secretary of State relative to the late unfortunate expedition sent from this colony to Malageah.

(The Colonial Secretary here read the Despatch, No. 23, dated 22d September 1855.)

Gentlemen, you will perceive, from the full and clear manner in which Sir William Molesworth has expressed his opinion on the subject matter contained in the despatch just read, that it became my duty to bring under your consideration the conduct of the Honourable Robert Dougan when acting as Governor of this colony.

I accordingly furnished that gentleman with a copy (on the 25th instant) of the charge I now submit for your investigation, and which I think can be substantiated without other testimony than the correspondence I shall lay before you; but should you require further evidence, Captain Fletcher and Mr. Dillet, who acted as co-commissioners, are present, as well as Mr. Mallard, who was also employed on the part of the Government after the failure of the expedition.

"Charge against the Honourable Robert Dougan.

"For having, when Acting-Governor, on the 21st day of May 1855, without authority and on insufficient grounds, sent an expedition against the Moriah chiefs in the Mellicourie River beyond the colony with orders to burn or destroy the town of Malageah, planned without foresight or judgment, disastrous in its termination, and disgraceful to the British power."

In proof that the Acting Governor had no authority to send a hostile expedition beyond the colony, I would refer you to the Colonial Regulations, page 8, par. 14., in which is stated, "If anything should happen which may be for the advantage or security of the colony, and is not provided for in the Governor's commission and instructions, he may take order for the present therein, provided he does not, by colour of any power or authority given to him, commence or declare war without the Queen's knowledge, except for preventing or repelling hostilities."

That the expedition was sent on insufficient grounds I think is shown in the treaty made by this Government with "Mori Lahai," chief of Malageah (4 paragraph).

(Read.)

"Nor are any of the Queen's subjects to break through any country law or custom, nor commit any illegal act, within the territory or upon any of the subjects of the aforesaid chief of Malageah."

That the expedition had orders to burn or destroy the town of Malageah, I refer you to the Acting Governor's despatch to Commodore Adams.

(The Despatch, No. 78, of 21st May 1855, was here read.)*

And if necessary I can bring an officer forward who read or heard read Lieut. Nicolas's orders, which were to the effect that he should burn and destroy the town of Malageah.

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* Vide Papers presented August 1855, page 19.

That the expedition was planned without foresight or judgment is obvious, when you hear that the troops were embarked at three hours' notice, without rockets.

(See Mr. Dougan's Despatch, No. 96*, of the 12th June, to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State.)

That the expedition was disastrous in its termination is shown by the list of killed and wounded which I now lay before you, by which it appears that three officers, naval and military, one company serjeant major, two sailors, three serjeants, three drummers, and sixty-four privates were killed. Added to this severe loss, the repulse of Her Majesty's forces tends to destroy our prestige.

That the result of the expedition is disgraceful to the British power, I beg leave to remark, that such appears to be the opinion of the Secretary of State, and I cannot see how any other opinion on the subject can be arrived at.

I shall be glad to find that Mr. Dougan is enabled to clear himself from blame in ordering the expedition, and I now leave the matter for your consideration and opinion.

His Excellency here read the Colonial Secretary's letter to Mr. Dougan, forwarding copy of the charge preferred against him, as follows:

(No. 403.) Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sierra Leone, October 25, 1855.

Sir,

I am directed by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief to enclose a charge, which, by direction of the Right Honourable Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, his Excellency intends to submit for the consideration of the Board of Council, on Monday next the 29th instant, unless you should wish a later period to enable you to prepare your defence.

His Excellency desires me to state that your defence may be either in writing or by personal attendance, as you may think best.

I am at the same time instructed to inform you that any despatches to which you may wish to refer will be sent you by his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. Smyth,
Colonial Secretary.

Honourable R. Dougan,
Queen's Advocate,
&c., &c.

Mr. Dougan's reply to the Colonial Secretary's letter, and addressed to his Excellency the Governor, was here read, as follows:

Sierra Leone, October 27, 1855.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Colonial Secretary's letter, forwarding, by your Excellency's direction, a charge against me during my administration of the Government, to be brought under the consideration of the Council on the 29th instant, at the request of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

2. As the whole of my proceedings in the conduct of the Malageah expeditions are in writing, I have no other evidence to lay before the Board, nor have I any defence to prepare.

3. It is my intention to address the Secretary of State for the Colonies upon the subject, so soon as the papers are laid before the Council.

4. I have only to request your Excellency will also place before the Board Sir George Grey's and Mr. Sidney Herbert's despatches, addressed to me, in reply to my report upon the first expedition sent to Malageah.

No. 28. February 3, 1855.
No. 4. February 22, 1855.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Robert Dougan,
Queen's Advocate.

His Excellency here stated, that Mr. Dougan seemed to ground his defence, if such it might be called, on the success of the first expedition to Malageah.

The Honourable Robert Armstrong observed, that in the first expedition to Malageah there was neither bloodshed nor mismanagement.

The Colonial Secretary said, that the question which the Board had to decide was a very simple one. It was confined to the single inquiry as to whether or not Mr. Dougan had exonerated himself from blame with respect to the Malageah expedition. Mr. Dougan seemed to rest his defence on the despatches of Sir George Grey and Mr. Sidney Herbert, referred to in the margin of the letter which he had addressed to his Excellency the Governor.

Now it did not appear to him (the Colonial Secretary) that either of those despatches could bear the construction which Mr. Dougan seemed to put upon them.

Even supposing that the Board was to admit, for argument's sake, that the despatch of Mr. Sidney Herbert was an approval of the first expedition, that was written on the representation of the Acting Governor that the first expedition had been completely successful, and there could be no doubt that the promoter and conductors of the first expedi-

* Vide same Papers, page 15.

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tion accepted a promissory note, payable to certain British and French traders therein named, as a full satisfaction for injuries said to have been sustained by those traders, and as a settlement of the whole affair. What right then, he (the Colonial Secretary) would ask, had the Acting Governor to re-open a question which had been settled? The moment that the promissory note was accepted, the whole transaction underwent a change, and it immediately became a question between a debtor and his creditor, and the money, which was payable in the proportion of $530 to certain British traders and $500 to certain French traders, ought to have been collected by the traders themselves, and the Acting Governor ought to have handed the promissory note over to them, seeing that the Government was not interested to the extent of one single farthing; and even supposing that there was a necessity for the expedition in November 1854, of which he (the Colonial Secretary) was not quite sure, and which he does not say that he would have advised, there certainly was no necessity for the expedition in May 1855, and Mr. Dougan's interference in the matter was an improper one.

Under these circumstances, it was with deep regret that he felt himself compelled to state that Mr. Dougan had advanced nothing which in his (the Colonial Secretary's) opinion cleared him of blame.

What Mr. Dougan meant to advance to the Secretary of State he could not say, but there was nothing before the Board which could acquit him of the charge laid against him.

The Honourable Robert Armstrong observed, the unfortunate massacre at Malageah again requires us to express our opinions of the administrative capacity of Mr. Dougan, and we must enter into the investigation without any false delicacy.

Much blame must accrue to him through the inquiry, and I fear he will not be able in mitigation to point to a single act of good service during the period he administered the government.

Honourable J. T. Commissiong thought that this was a matter to be sincerely regretted, inasmuch as it showed great want of judgment on the part of Mr. Dougan, who was administering the government.

He (Mr. Commissiong) had heard that an expedition was about to be sent to Malageah, but when he mentioned it he was laughed at. He certainly never thought the Acting Governor would really have taken such a step, and had he consulted the Council he (Mr. Commissiong) felt convinced that this unfortunate occurrence would never have taken place.

He regretted being obliged to record as his opinion that Mr. Dougan had exhibited such great want of judgment that he could not possibly be exonerated from blame.

His Honour the Chief Justice referred to the charge preferred by the Governor against Mr. Dougan, and to the despatch from the Secretary of State read to the Board, and said, that the letter from Mr. Dougan addressed to the Governor in his defence did not in his opinion exonerate Mr. Dougan from blame in this matter. In his letter Mr. Dougan had referred to a despatch written by himself in October 1854, and to two despatches, dated the 3d and 22d February last, from Sir George Grey and Mr. Sidney Herbert.

The despatch from Mr. Sidney Herbert had reference to the first expedition, undertaken in November 1854. But neither this despatch nor the one from Sir George Grey justified the sending the second expedition to Malageah, with orders to burn down the town, for the nonpayment of a small sum of money.

Neither could he regard the expedition as having been undertaken in the interest of the merchants of the colony.

No notice was given to the traders to remove their property from the river; and if the natives had retaliated, after the destruction of their town, British property to a very large amount would have been lost, and the lives of the traders in the river rendered insecure.

The expedition left with 150 men from the garrison, who had only three hours' notice before embarking; and it was placed under the commaud of a young officer just arrived from England, who had no knowledge of the number of natives likely to be brought against him.

The loss of life occasioned by the expedition was not to be overlooked; and he thought no one was at liberty to cause by his orders such a destruction of human life, except under very justifiable circumstances and the most imperative necessity.

As the Governor had stated, "the prestige of the colony had been destroyed by the results of this disastrous expedition," and he (the Chief Justice) felt it his duty to record his vote that this expedition had been undertaken without authority and upon insufficient grounds, and that Mr. Dougan had not cleared himself from blame in having ordered it with directions to burn down the town of Malageah.

Honourable Charles Heddle stated, that having heard Mr. Dougan's letter in reply to the one from his Excellency he was of opinion that Mr. Dougan was under some misapprehension as to the position in which he was placed.

The Secretary of State's despatch embodied certain charges against Mr. Dougan, which his Excellency was requested to investigate before the Council.

On this being intimated to Mr. Dougan, he informs the Governor that what he has to say must be addressed to the Secretary of State.

Now, I am sure it is the opinion of the Secretary of State that the defence should be made before us.

If Mr. Dougan declines to do this, he is under some error.

His Excellency. With all wish to do justice to Mr. Dougan, Mr. Dougan has carefully read all the despatches, &c.

Mr. Heddle. There is nothing to justify Mr. Dougan in addressing himself to the Secretary of State.

The Chief Justice. We cannot compel Mr. Dougan to enter on his defence.

Mr. Commissiong. I am confident that Mr. Dougan feels he cannot clear himself, and therefore he has no justification to offer.

Mr. Armstrong thought that from Mr. Dougan's letter he declined making any defence whatever.

The Colonial Secretary. Mr. Dougan is mistaken in the course he is about to pursue. He has offered to us the only defence he has it in his power to offer. He cares not for us, but has avowed his intention of addressing himself direct to the Secretary of State. (The Colonial Secretary here alluded to a parallel case, in the case of Dr. Aitkin, formerly Colonial Surgeon of Sierra Leone.)

We have read the only attempt at a defence that Mr. Dougan has offered, and we are of opinion that he cannot clear himself from blame.

Mr. Heddle. I think Mr. Dougan would see the impolicy of his conduct if we were to communicate with him on the subject.

It was here moved by his Excellency, and seconded by Mr. Armstrong, that Mr. Dougan should have an opportunity of reconsidering his defence.

The Chief Justice thought there was no occasion to point out to a gentleman his own line of defence.

If the Board wished to write him a letter, he thought that was the proper course.

A letter was here written to Mr. Dougan by the Clerk of Council, as follows:

"Sir, Council Chamber, November 2, 1855.

"It has been suggested in Council that you are under a misapprehension with respect to the course which it is your duty to pursue on the inquiry to which the attention of his Excellency the Governor and the Board of Council has been directed by Sir William Molesworth's despatch of the 22d September 1855, of which you have had the perusal.

"His Excellency and the Board are desirous of ascertaining whether you adhere to the resolution conveyed in your letter of the 27th October, of confining your defence in the present instance to the despatches referred to in the margin of your letter above stated.

"Should you, upon consideration, think proper to change this resolution, and to address the defence, which it seems you propose sending to the Secretary of State, to the Council, I am directed to inform you that the Board is now sitting, and ready to listen to such further defence.

"I have, &c.

"Hon. R. Dougan, (Signed) Reginald Palmer,
"Queen's Advocate. Clerk of Council."

His Excellency stated, that Mr. Dougan had declined to accede to the proposition, and a letter from Mr. Dougan in reply was read by the Clerk of Council.

"Sir, Free Town, 2d November 1855.

"I have the honour, in reply to your letter of this day's date, to state, for the information of his Excellency and the Board of Council, that it is my intention to adhere to the original resolution conveyed in my letter of the 27th of last month.

"I have the honour, &c.

"To Reginald Palmer, Esq. (Signed) R. Dougan,
"Clerk of Council. Queen's Advocate."

Mr. Heddle thought Mr. Dougan was very culpable in sending the expedition to Malageah without assembling his Council, and taking steps to ascertain their opinions, &c.

He also thought Mr. Dougan culpable in placing Mr. Dillet in the position of commissioner.

Neither Mr. Dillet's experience nor position in the civil service entitled him to be placed in such a position.

Mr. Dougan also knew that Mr. Dillet had been among those chiefs a few years ago in a subordinate position, and the native chiefs pay more attention to these matters than we give them credit for.

These he thought were the principal faults committed by Mr. Dougan.

He (Mr. Heddle) exonerated him entirely from the palpable mismanagement of the expedition.

Mr. Dougan must have expected that a steamer just arrived from England was in an efficient state for the service on which she was sent.

If he had any doubts on the subject, these doubts must necessarily have been removed by the presence in the harbour of Commodore Adams, to whom the condition of that vessel must have been perfectly known.

As the subject is brought up, I must put on record my opinion that the "Teazer" was sent in a most improper manner on that expedition.

SIERRA LEONE.

There were 150 men placed on her deck, rendering it impossible for her to use her armaments, if they were to remain there; and if they were to be landed, the vessel was unprovided with any boats for the purpose.

Although Mr. Dougan may have been guilty of exceeding his instructions, that, in my opinion, is an error that should be overlooked.

I hold that no Governor can rule a colony at a distance of 3,000 miles from the parent country, without he has, at times, the moral courage to disregard rules made only for ordinary cases.

His Excellency then asked the following questions :—

Do you consider that Mr. Dougan has cleared himself from blame with respect to the expedition sent to Malageah?

The unanimous opinion of the Council was, that he had not.

Do you think that, according to the wording of the Secretary of State's despatch, I should suspend Mr. Dougan as member of Council and as Queen's Advocate?

The unanimous opinion of the Council was that the Governor should suspend Mr. Dougan.

Mr. Dougan's case here terminated.

(Signed) REGINALD PALMER,
Clerk of Council.

Confirmed, 8th November 1855.
STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

Encl. 2. in No. 8.

Enclosure 2. in No. 8.

SIR, Council Chambers, Sierra Leone, November 3, 1855.

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor to inform you, that having submitted the charge referred to in the Colonial Secretary's Letter, No. 403, dated 25th October 1855, for the consideration of the Council of this colony, that Board was of opinion that you had not cleared yourself from blame with respect to the charge which it was his Excellency's duty, in obedience to the instructions of the Secretary of State, to place before them.

I am, therefore, directed to inform you that his Excellency, with the concurrence of the Board of Council, has decided on suspending you from your office of Queen's Advocate, and from sitting and voting as a member of Council, pending the decision of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies on the report which will be forwarded to him.

I have it further in command to request that you will place in the custody of the Colonial Secretary all books and other documents which may have been put into your possession as Queen's Advocate, for the public service of this colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD PALMER,
Clerk of Council.

Honourable R. Dougan,
Queen's Adcocate.

Encl. 3. in No. 8.

Enclosure 3. in No. 8.

SIR, Sierra Leone, November 5, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, informing me that his Excellency, with the concurrence of the Board of Council, had decided upon suspending me from my office of Queen's Advocate, and from sitting and voting as a member of Council, pending the decision of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies on the report which would be forwarded to him; and requesting me also to place in the custody of the Colonial Secretary all books and documents which may have been put into my possession as Queen's Advocate, for the public service of this colony.

I have, &c.
Signed) R. DOUGAN.

Reginald Palmer, Esq.,
Clerk of Council,
&c. &c.

No. 9.

No. 9.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
November 20, 1855.

SIR, (Received December 19, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour to forward a communication, with seven enclosures, which Mr. Dougan has sent through me, addressed to Sir William Molesworth, on the subject of the inquiry into the Acting Governor's conduct with respect to the late unfortunate expedition to Malageah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL
Governor.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

SIERRA LEONE.

Encl. in No. 9.

Enclosure in No. 9.

SIR, Sierra Leone, November 14, 1855.

HAVING been called upon by his Excellency Governor Hill to answer a charge for having ordered the second expedition to Malageah, and being at the same time informed that I might either do so personally or in writing, but as I had no evidence to offer or further remarks to make upon the subject than those which I had already advanced in my several despatches to Her Majesty's Government, I requested his Excellency to submit the whole of them to the Board of Council, reserving to myself the right to address you further upon the subject.

Colonial Secretary to Mr. Dougan. No. 403, 25th Oct. 1855.
Vide page 29.

2. At a sitting of the Council held on the 2d instant I received the enclosed communication from the Clerk of the Council, giving me the option of changing the resolution of not appearing before that Board, if I thought fit, upon further consideration, to do so. I replied by stating that I would adhere to my original determination, and on the day following I received the enclosed communication suspending me from my office of Queen's Advocate, and from sitting and voting as a member of Council.

Mr. Dougan in reply. 27th Oct. 1855.
Vide page 29.

Clerk of Council to Mr. Dougan. 2d Nov. 1855.
Vide page 31.

3. I had so fully acquainted your predecessors in office with every detail connected with the circumstances of the Malageah expeditions, and more especially to the violation of our treaty with the chiefs of that place, I had hoped that with such information before you you would have perceived that I had followed in the track of my predecessors, by employing coercive measures for a due enforcement of their engagements, for, if they refused to comply with arrangements which they themselves had entered into to indemnify British and French traders in that river, and thereby pacify this Government, there was no alternative left but to adopt coercive measures, which have, however, I deeply regret, unfortunately failed.

Mr. Dougan in reply. 2d Nov. 1855.
Vide page 31.

Clerk of Council to Mr. Dougan. 3d Nov. 1855.
Vide page 32.

4. In so distant a colony as this from the mother country, surrounded as it is with semi-barbarous tribes, it is impossible to maintain its prestige without acting promptly and boldly in dealing with them.

5. I respectfully maintain that the same results might have occurred on the first expedition, which was undertaken without the concurrence of the Council, and which met with the Secretary of State's approval. Had Sir George Grey or Mr. Sidney Herbert informed me that no expedition, except of the most urgent nature, should be undertaken against native chiefs, I certainly should have refrained from carrying out the arrangements made in the matter between the native chiefs and this Government until I had received instructions from the Imperial Government.

6. The measures adopted on the first occasion having been approved, I could never have contemplated that, after having acted subsequently in the same manner, blame would be cast upon me should its result be unfortunate.

7. I leave, Sir, to your impartial judgment to determine whether I can now be justly censured for having ordered this expedition, to carry out the arrangement of the first, which was approved of. Had a check not been put to the contempt which the native authorities displayed towards this Government, there is not the slightest doubt that our traders would subsequently have been more harshly dealt with than on the previous occasion; and inasmuch as the disturbances originated from our having seized their slaves in transit from the Sherbro' country to their own territory, fearful consequences might have ensued upon the recurrence of a similar proceeding, had I not employed force to suppress their outrageous feelings. They threatened to break off all engagements with the Government, leave their treaties unobserved, and unhesitatingly to drive the whole of our merchants and traders from their country; and though the first expedition temporarily suppressed these feelings, my knowledge of the native character prompted me not to threaten without acting. Had not the second expedition been undertaken, they would have considered we had not the power to punish them, and would have seriously violated their treaties, for on a former occasion they did not hesitate to seize upon the principal British merchant then in the river, with the view of tying him up and corporally chastising him.

8. Another incentive which induced this expedition was our having undertaken to protect French interests in the territories of these chiefs. What would have been their opinion of this Government had I allowed matters to remain stationary, and suffer the natives to act with impunity towards them? Though the result of this expedition has proved disastrous, from mismanagement, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that the native chiefs have nevertheless become aware that it is in our power to inflict punishment, and to chastise them, whenever their conduct may demand it.

9. I humbly submit that had my authority in the first instance been questioned for ordering the expedition, and had I then been informed that the grounds for such an expedition were insufficient, I should not now have been called upon to answer the present charge preferred against me.

10. I beg to draw your attention, Sir, to the fact that coercive measures are not confined to this part of the African coast, but even to those places within the sphere of our consuls; and I will name an instance in proof of my assertion,—the bombardment and destruction, on the 9th of January last, of Old Town, Calabar, by Her Majesty's ship "Antelope," at the request of the British Consul, for an infringement of an article in our treaty with certain chiefs of that river.

Sub-Enclosure 1.
Vide page 34.

SIERRA LEONE.
No. 96.*
12th June.
No. 126.†
30th July.

11. Having so fully explained the causes in my despatches which led to the results in the second expedition, I respectfully crave your kind consideration and earnest attention to them, in the hope that you may be induced to remove from me that official stigma in which I am now placed.

12. During a lengthened residence of upwards of thirty years in this colony, whether in or out of the public service, it has ever been my study to promote the welfare of the colony, and to strive for its future advancement. The enclosed return will show you, Sir, the various offices I have filled in the public service during that period of time.

13. Admitting, Sir, that I have committed an error in judgment in directing this expedition, I sensibly feel that unenviable position in which I have been placed by your instructions. Had I become aware by any chance that the "Teazer" was not in a condition to have carried out the object of the expedition, you may rest assured, Sir, that I should have countermanded the requisition which I gave; and, although I bow to the instructions which have been issued by you to Governor Hill, yet, Sir, I cannot but say that the punishment inflicted has been extremely severe.

No. 126, 31st July.
Vide page 1.

14. You will perceive, Sir, that from the discussions in the Council in the Malageah expedition, the majority of the members had already prejudged my proceedings in this matter.

I have, &c.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Signed) R. DOUGAN.

Sub-Enclosure 1 in No. 9.

Bombardment of Old Town, Calabar.

Copied from "The Times" of the 10th July 1855.

SIR J. ANDERSON asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether Her Majesty's Government had received any report of the bombardment and destruction on the 9th day of January last, by Her Majesty's steam ship "Antelope," Lieut.-Commander Young, of Old Town at Calabar on the coast of Africa, by which the property of British missionaries residing there was destroyed; by whose authority Lieut. Young acted, and what were the reasons assigned for such a proceeding; and if it was by the orders of Her Majesty's Government that the British Consul had interdicted the inhabitants from rebuilding the town.

Sir C. Wood said, "Her Majesty's Government had received an account of the bombardment of Old Town, Calabar, by Her Majesty's ship 'Antelope,' and it was done at the particular request of Her Majesty's Consul. The reason for taking that course was, that an article of the treaty with certain chiefs had been infringed. The missionaries represented that the chiefs were in the habit of murdering persons by administering nut poison (as we understood). The consul called upon the chiefs to give an assurance that they would abstain from the practice. The chiefs, in spite of remonstrances, having repeated the offence, the consul called upon the commander of the 'Antelope' to bombard the place. He (Sir C. Wood) did not know whether the property of the missionaries had been destroyed, and he was not aware of any steps being taken to prevent the rebuilding of the town."

Sub Enclosure 2. in No. 9.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sierra Leone.

THIS is to certify, that Mr. Robert Dougan appears by the records of this office to have filled the under-mentioned appointments in this colony for the periods specified:—

As Crown Prosecutor from 21st June to 13th October 1831.
As Acting King's Advocate from 16th April 1832 to 24th April 1833.
As Acting King's Advocate from 7th July to 8th December 1833.
As Acting King's Advocate from 27th March to 20th April 1834.
As Acting King's Advocate from 24th April 1834 to 25th April 1836.
As Registrar of the Court of Chancery from 30th December 1833 to 24th January 1836.
As Registrar of the Court of Ordinary from 27th February 1835 to 31st December 1839.
As Acting Queen's Advocate from 23d April to 19th June 1839.
As Acting Queen's Advocate from 24th April to 2d September 1841.
As Acting Queen's Advocate from 26th October 1841 to 14th April 1842.
As Acting Queen's Advocate from 23d July 1843 to 2d March 1844.
As Acting Queen's Advocate from 1st December 1845 to 18th August 1846.
As a Member of Council from 17th August 1846 to date.
As Acting Queen's Advocate from 3d December 1847 to 30th July 1849.

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* Vide Papers presented August 1855, page 15.
† Vide page 1.

Queen's Advocate from 11th August 1854 to date.
As Acting Governor from 13th October to 27th December 1854.
As Acting Governor from 17th January 1855 to date.

(Signed) J. F. SMYTH,
Colonial Secretary.

Secretary's Office, Sierra Leone,
20th April 1855.

No. 10.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HILL to the Right Honourable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
(No. 214.) November 21, 1855.
(Received December 19, 1855.)

SIR, Answered No. 76, January 22, 1856, page 48.

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 213*, of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inform you, that Mr. Dillet appeared before the Board of Council on the 8th instant, to answer the charges I exhibited against him as follows:

* Page 27.

1st. For having participated in the seizure of Mohammodoo Turie, prime minister of the king of Malageah, whilst under the protection of a flag of truce, on the 22d May 1855, such conduct being contrary to the laws of war, and tending to bring discredit on the British authority:

2d. Retaining a letter from the king of Malageah, together with a list of goods sent by that chief in part payment of the demand made against him, paying no attention to the contents thereof, and proceeding to destroy the king's town, on the 22d May 1855:

3d. Participating in the second attack on Malageah, on the 23d May 1855, after he was aware that the greater part of the town had been destroyed on the previous day, and severe punishment already inflicted.

After a patient investigation of those charges, and mature consideration of the defence offered, a majority of the Council acquitted Mr. Dillet of blame with respect to the first charge.

With respect to the second charge, a majority of the Council decided that Mr. Dillet had not cleared himself from blame.

With respect to the third charge, the Council were unanimous in opinion that Mr. Dillet was to blame.

The Board of Council then decided that Mr. Dillet should be suspended from his official duties, pending your decision; and the Clerk to the Board communicated by letter, at my desire, to Mr. Dillet, on the 9th instant, such suspension.

I have not considered it expedient to interfere with the office held by Mr. Dillet as postmaster, as this appointment is properly under the direction of the Postmaster General; but I have suspended Mr. Dillet, until your pleasure is known on the subject, from his office of fourth writer in the office of the Colonial Secretary, and as paymaster of the militia.

Copies of the whole of the documents produced before the Council during the investigation of this case, together with the minutes of the Board, are submitted herewith, for your information.

Having carried out your instructions with regard to Mr. Dillet, I would, in justice to this gentleman, venture to submit for your consideration, that he has been on several occasions employed by the Governors of this colony on missions to the native chiefs, of great delicacy and trust. He holds in his possession the thanks of the Executive for the manner in which he executed those services;* he is also a good working officer, and valuable as a writer in the Secretary's office, in which he has served several years.

**Note.*—With reference to these services Governor Hill transmitted copies of nine Treaties "for the extension of British jurisdiction and suppression of the Slave Trade," which Mr. Dillet had been engaged in negociating; and also testimonials in his favour from former Governors.

SIERRA LEONE.

I shall not attempt to offer any excuse for the want of judgment exhibited by Mr. Dillet as one of the commissioners in the unfortunate expedition to Malageah. I can only regret that he should have been selected, and placed in a position beyond his powers, where his want of discrimination and good judgment tended to misfortunes and loss of life deeply to be regretted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Encl. 1. in No. 10.

Enclosure 1. in No. 10.

(No. 413.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sierra Leone,
November 3, 1855.

SIR,

1. I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor to state that the Board of Council will take into consideration on Thursday next the 8th instant the charges which were delivered to you some days ago, with reference to your conduct on the mission to Malageah in May last.

2. Your defence may be either by personal attendance or in writing, as you may see fit; and I am to acquaint you that the proceedings will commence on the day above named, at 11 o'clock A.M.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. SMYTH,
Colonial Secretary.

P.S.—I am further to state, by direction of his Excellency, that any despatches you may require in your defence will be at your disposal.

J. E. Dillet, Esq., Fourth Writer, (Signed) J. F. SMYTH.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 2. in No. 10.

Enclosure 2. in No. 10.

Sierra Leone, November 5, 1855.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 3d instant, I beg to state that it is my intention to appear before the Council on Thursday next.

As it will be necessary for me to make allusion to the evidence taken before the court of inquiry in July last, I have the honour respectfully to request that the original proceedings may be produced on the occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. DILLET.

The Hon. J. F. Smyth, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl 3. in No. 10.

Enclosure 3. in No. 10.

Secretary's Office, Sierra Leone,
July 27, 1855.

SIR,

1. ADVERTING to your Excellency's communication, No. 101, dated 14th June 1855, which we have already had the honour to acknowledge, we now beg leave to submit copies of the examination of witnesses in the matter of inquiry referred to us.

Appendix A.

2. Our letter of the 3d instant would inform your Excellency of the necessity which we felt for examining some of the native chiefs of Malageah; but as it did not appear to you desirable that their attendance should be invited to this colony, we proceeded to the examination of such other witnesses as we could obtain, and we now beg leave to state the conclusions at which we have arrived, as the result of this inquiry.

Appendix B.

3. We are of opinion that the extract from Mr. Mallard's letter, as amended by the parol testimony of that gentleman, is borne out in all material particulars by the witnesses subsequently examined.

4. It is clearly in evidence that on the arrival of the "Teazer" at Malageah on the 22d May with troops on board, she found lying there a canoe with goods that had been sent to Binty to Mr. Davison, and refused.

5. We are therefore of opinion that no stress can be laid upon the fact that a portion of the statement of Mr. Mallard is to the effect that Mahmodoo Turee said to the commissioners appointed by your Excellency on the occasion of their having landed with troops at Malageah, the 22d May, "The king is not there, but here is the money to pay," or "We done send list to Davison," for as the commissioners had previous information of these matters, it is quite immaterial to the point at issue whether Mahmodoo Turee repeated them or not.

6. Although we would be careful to guard against admitting that even a refusal to pay the money would have justified such an attack as that of setting fire with lighted matches to the town of a chief in terms of amity with the Queen of England, and who had not, up to that time, made the slightest show of hostility, yet we think it but just to Bamba

Mina Lahi to state that even such a refusal (insufficient though it would have been) cannot be urged in extenuation of the destruction of the town of Malageah; for it would appear that whatever may have been the disposition of the chief on the first visit of the "Teazer" on the 20th May, yet upon his apprehending that she would return with troops he determined to prevent a hostile visit by paying the whole amount, and in fulfilment of this determination he sent a portion thereof in goods to Mr. Davison, with a promise of sending the remainder by the next tide.

7. And if upon the arrival of the "Teazer" at Binty, with troops on board, en route to Malageah, the commissioners, upon being put in possession of the list and letter containing the offer which was made to Mr. Davison to send the remainder of the goods, had, instead of proceeding to Malageah, called upon Bamba Mina Lahi to make good his promise, there is no doubt, from the evidence, that the whole amount would have been paid, and the fearful destruction of property and loss of life, together with all the moral consequences of a defeat of our troops, been averted.

8. It is further in evidence that Bamba Mina Lahi was anxious to pay the money, and it would seem that he had been collecting his debts to assist in doing so; that he had sent to the traders in the neighbourhood to borrow goods to enable him to pay; that in the letters which he wrote to Mr. Davison, the contents of which were known to Mr. Dillet, he stated that, in addition to the goods sent in the canoe, there was at Malageah the remainder, and it would be sent down to Binty by the next tide.

9. With regard to the non-appearance of the king when the "Teazer" visited Malageah with the troops on board, we are of opinion that the testimony of Mr. Nathaniel Lyons sufficiently explains the cause, which seems to have been, that finding the canoe with goods had been sent back from Binty, and the steamer returning, he got alarmed; and, to use the words of Mr. Lyons, "The king and people on shore saw the man-of-war coming up on the 22d May; they put up the white flag, and run away."

10. The attack was therefore made upon the town of an unoffending and unresisting chief, after such an offer of payment as ought, in our opinion, to have been attended to.

11. The natives quietly submitted to the burning of their town on the 22d of May, and it was not until the second landing of our troops, on the 23d of May, that they took up arms for the purpose of repelling further hostilities.

12. We beg leave to invite your Excellency's attention to the evidence furnished in extenso, which we think cannot fail to place matters in such a light as to render further comment unnecessary.

13. And as it is desirable that the whole of these proceedings should be transmitted to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, we have the honour to forward this report, with its appendices, in duplicate, that one copy may be sent to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell by this mail.

We have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. Smyth.
Robert Armstrong.
John M'Cormack.

His Excellency the Acting Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 4. in No. 10.

(A.)

Sir, Freetown, Sierra Leone, June 21, 1855.

In reply to an application made by me to Lieutenant Nicolas, late of Her Majesty's steam vessel "Teazer," who has been obliged to leave this for England to-day, for answers to certain queries proposed by me relative to statements made against me by the native chiefs of Malageah, I was verbally informed by that officer that they would be submitted to Commodore Adams, when he would direct them to be handed to me.

The matter pending being one of vital importance, affecting as it does my public character as an officer of this Government, and as it is quite uncertain, under present circumstances, at what period the court of inquiry will be opened, I have the honour to request you to be good enough to move the Commodore to direct the original answers being forwarded me, as I learn they have been sent to him.

I studiously avoided putting any question to that gentleman which might have been construed as interfering in any way with his position as a naval officer; and under such circumstances I feel confident the Commodore can have no objection to their being sent me.

I make this early application as I hear the "Scourge" is likely to leave this port very shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. Dillet,
Private Secretary.

James C. Pinhorn, Esq.,
Secretary, &c.

SIERRA LEONE.

(B.)

SIR, "Scourge," Sierra Leone, June 21, 1855.

IN reply to your letter of this date, relative to answers given by Lieutenant Nicolas to certain questions (written) which you had put to him, relative to the late affair at Malageah,—

I am directed by the Commodore to inform you, that he considers many of those questions to be objectionable, as several of them do implicate Lieutenant Nicolas. He therefore objects to their being made use of in any way, and cannot consent to your being furnished with them, as it is very possible to place a very different construction upon the same thing when written and when spoken by word of mouth.

The Commodore further desires me to suggest that Captain Fletcher (the other Commissioner acting with you) might be able to furnish evidence, equally, if not more, important, as the attention of Lieutenant Nicolas was chiefly engaged in the navigation of his ship at the time to which many of your questions refer.

I have, &c.

J. E. Dillet, Esq., Private Secretary.

(Signed) JAMES C. PINHORN, Secretary.

(C.)

Captain FLETCHER, 1st West India Regiment.

1. Will you be good enough to state whether I made any objection to the detention of Mahmodoo Touray as a prisoner at Malageah on the 22d May last?

You did; and you said he was not worth detaining, and had not the influence with the king that I supposed he had.

2. Please state what circumstances induced Commander Nicolas to insist on his seizure?

It was the opinion of myself and Lieutenant Nicolas that if the king heard that Touree was a prisoner that the king would immediately come to terms, and be the means of preventing bloodshed.

3. Were you not informed that the flag of truce hoisted in the king's yard had been pulled down?

I heard some of the people on the beach say that it was pulled down.

4. Did any one appear, on the commissioners landing, to explain the object for which the flag had been displayed?

Not a soul came near us; we pressed a native of the name of Smiler to take a message to the king.

5. Was not the sanctity of that flag violated by the natives, they having removed their property during the temporary cessation of hostilities?—and do you not consider that according to the usages of war they had thereby forfeited all claim to its protection?

They had no claim to be treated according to the terms of a flag of truce. They told us that the king was in one place; some said in another; others that he was not in town; some said he would come in five minutes, and in the meantime walked off with their cattle and horses.

6. Was not the flag hauled down previously to the appearance of Mahmodoo Touray?

In my opinion, most certainly. If I mistake not, Lieutenant Nicolas hailed the ship, and so ordered.

7. Did I, or did I not, show you and Commander Nicolas a letter and list of goods addressed to Mr. Davison, and written by the chief's direction?

You did.

8. Was not every consideration and attention paid to the contents thereof?

Of course the commissioners landed to treat upon the subject.

9. Was it not solely to treat for payment of the money that the commissioners landed?

Yes; we only landed with a small guard; we expected the claim would have been paid.

10. Did not Mahmodoo Touray refuse to give the commissioners satisfactory replies to their inquiries?

He made nothing but evasive answers to our questions; one moment he said we should be paid, and another that they had not the money.

11. Did you not as a commissioner tell Touray that a fine would be imposed upon the king, and that the commissioners would take upon themselves not to insist upon its payment if the king came down to arrange the palaver; or words to that effect?

Yes. I read him the Governor's instructions to that effect, and told him, as he was about to send to the king, that he was to tell the king I would let him off that fine if he would immediately come to terms.

12. Was not the presence of the king, from the nature of the commissioners' instructions, absolutely necessary?

Of course we were ordered to make a treaty with him, and I would not trust the king so far as to go to him with my small force, even if he had sent for me, as on a former occasion he was hid in the bush.

13. Were the commissioners in any way connected with the instructions given for the destruction of the town?

The commissioners were ordered to impose a fine, and to make a treaty with the king.

14. Did not Commander Nicolas inform you as well as myself that the nature of his instructions were such, that unless he effectually destroyed the king's town he would render himself liable to be tried by a court-martial for not having fully carried out his instructions?

He did.

15. Did you consider that the commissioners were in any way responsible for the execution or non-execution thereof?

They were in no way responsible, being only required to make a treaty.

16. May I ask you to be good enough, should your memory serve you, to quote that portion of the instructions of Commander Nicolas relative to the destruction of the king's town?

Pacific measures having failed to induce the king to pay the debt, Commander Nicolas was ordered to take a detachment of the West India Regiments on board the "Teazer," and immediately to open fire upon the town and destroy it, and to return to Sierra Leone when that duty was performed.

17. Had we not orders to seize the king, if possible, and bring him to town?

He had positively, in writing, by the Commodore.

18. Did I not serve on shore at Malageah as a volunteer in command of a naval party under your orders on the 22d May last?

You served as a volunteer.

19. Did I not serve at Malageah on the 23d May last, volunteering to accompany the advance guard of troops under Lieut. Vincent?

You did, and were twice wounded in the head and leg.

20. As a military man, what would have been your impression of my conduct had I remained on board the "Teazer," holding, as I do, a commission in the militia of this colony, during an expedition on shore of British troops?

I should not have thought so much of you as I do now.

21. After the unfortunate result of the action on the 23d May last, though wounded myself, did I not waive every personal consideration, and resolve upon accompanying Mahmodoo Touray to treat for the rescue of British prisoners in the hands of the natives?

You did, and you would have been butchered had we allowed you.

22. Was it not from dread of treachery alone that yourself and Commander Nicolas refused to accede to my proposal?

Of course we would not trust them.

(Signed) R. D. FLETCHER,
Captain 1st West India Regiment.

22d November 1855,
Sierra Leone.

(D.)

Sierra Leone, 22d October 1855.

1. Were you not at the residence of King Bamba Mina Lahai, after the troops landed at Malageah on the 22d May last, and when it was visited with the view of ascertaining for what object the flag of truce had been displayed from the king's flag staff?

Yes. I was engaged in and about the king's yard in posting picquets.

2. Was any one present, or was any one sent by the king, to explain his wishes or his proposals under cover of that flag?

Not that I am aware of; certainly not to me.

3. Was it not hauled down by Serjeant-major Scanlan in your presence, because it was discovered that every thing had been removed from the premises, and because no one came to afford any information as to the cause of its having been hoisted?

Serjeant Scanlan hauled down the flag in the king's yard, saying at the time to me, "that it was useless to allow that 'rag' to stay up there any longer." The houses in the king's yard were quite empty,—litterally "gutted," and no one came to explain anything.

4. Do you not consider that the natives had violated the sanctity of the flag by

I certainly was, and am of opinion that the natives availed themselves of their flag

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deserting the town, and thereby had forfeited all claims to its protection?

5. Having been an eye witness, and taking everything into consideration, are you or are you not of opinion that sufficient consideration was shown towards the king, especially after the deception practised upon us?

of truce to remove their property, which was a violation of the protection afforded by the flag.

I landed with the commissioners, and it appeared to me they dallied too long,—so long indeed that the men were impatient; and I heard Lieut. Nicolas observe that we must be quick about our work when we did begin, as the tide had turned, and we should lose it, or words to that effect.

(Signed) CLAUDE KERR,
Lieut. 3d West India Regiment.

(E.)

Freetown, Sierra Leone,
November 5, 1855.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 2d instant, I beg to state that there was no flag of truce flying on board Her Majesty's ship "Teazer" when Mahmodoo Touray was taken prisoner at Malageah on the 22d May last, Commander Nicolas having hailed the ship from the shore to have it hauled down. I was on shore when Touray was taken prisoner.

I cannot speak positively about the flag on shore, as I did not go to the king's yard.

I remain, &c.

J. E. Dillet, Esq. (Signed) CHARLES F. TAPRIL, R.N.

I hereby certify, that Mr. Tapril acknowledged in my presence having signed the foregoing letter to Mr. Dillet of the 5th instant.

Freetown, November 6, 1855. (Signed) WM. SMITH.

(F.)

SIR, Sierra Leone, July 7, 1855.

I BEG to inform you that the bullocks which were tied up at the wharf at the town of Malageah on the first day's action, and which were shot and burnt, were my property.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MOSES ROWLANCE,
Agent for G. A. Kidd.

J. E. Dillet, Esquire.

Moses Rowlance, the party signing the above letter, declared the same to be true in all particulars.

Before me, this 7th July 1855.
(Signed) GEO. W. NICOL, J.P.

(G.)

SIR, Benty, Mellicourie River, November 3, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, wherein occur the following paragraphs:—"1st. You will be good enough to state the "reasons which Commander Nicolas, late of Her Majesty's Ship 'Teazer,' gave you at "Benty in the River Mellicourie, on the 22d May last, that caused him to return on the "23d May (2d day) to attack Malageah, after having ascertained that a portion of that "town was uninjured." "2d. Whether you consider, from what came to your knowledge, "that I could in any way have advised or influenced Commander Nicolas in the decision "he arrived at with respect to the second attack."

In reply, I must call your attention to the fact, that the only conversation relative to a return to Malageah on the 23d May, "second day," took place at my table on the 22d May, "first day;" and that for the very untoward position in which you are placed I should consider myself bound in all honour to reply "Non mi recordo" to your queries. As a matter of justice to you, under the circumstances, I have not the least hesitation in saying that Commander Nicolas most distinctly stated, in continuation of a remark made by me, "Yes; but you see, unfortunately, my orders are imperative to destroy the town. Now I "have only partly destroyed it; to carry out my orders fully it becomes a matter of "necessity that we return."

At the request of Captain Fletcher, the officer commanding the troops, all further conversation relative to Malageah ceased; and I am not aware that anything further was said at my house relative to a return to Malageah; neither can I give you any idea of what circumstances influenced Commander Nicolas to return on the 23d May, as the officers rejoined the "Teazer," leaving you on shore, where you slept 22d, going on board early in the morning of the 23d, when the "Teazer" had her steam up, and the vessel then went up the river.

I have, &c.

J. E. Dillet, Esquire, Sierra Leone. (Signed) D. H. DAVISON.

(H.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,
May 21, 1855.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the event of hostilities being taken against the Moriah chiefs, and the chiefs are then prepared to pay the amount which has been demanded from them, a further sum of $200 should be imposed upon them beyond that sum, for the insults offered to this government.

It will in such case be necessary to enter into new treaties with them, the form of the one enclosed will do as a guide, and you are hereby authorized and empowered, as commissioners from the Government, to enter into the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

Commander Nicolas, H. M. S. "Teazer."
Captain Fletcher, 1st W. I. Regt.
J. E. Dillet, Esq., Private Secretary.

(I.)

I, THE undersigned, do declare, that I was pilot on board of H.M.S. "Teazer" on the 23d May last, when off Malageah in the Mellicourie river. As soon as the last boat with troops came on board, I received orders from the second master, then in charge of the ship, to proceed immediately out of the river. Mr. Dillet, finding that the ship was about to remove from off Malageah, came to me at the bow of the vessel, and said, "I hope the ship is not to be removed from here." I replied, I had orders to go away from Mallageah; upon this Mr. Dillet went away, returning very shortly after, saying, "Commander Nicolas wishes to see you in the cabin." We went below, when I heard Mr. Dillet say, "On no account permit the vessel to leave this; I think she can return with safety." Commander Nicolas acceded, but the ship was by this time in a narrow and dangerous part of the river, and could not be anchored, except at a very great risk to her safety.

Finding this, Mr. Dillet contended that the ship could be brought to at Conta with perfect safety; but having received no orders to do so when off that place, I accordingly did not. The above is, as far as I recollect, à true statement of what occurred on the occasion.

(Signed) M. W. JENKINS.

Declared to the above statement before me this
31st day of October 1855.
(Signed) GEO. W. NICOL, J.P.

Enclosure 5. in No. 10.

Encl. 5. in No. 10.

(No. 3)

SIR,

Benty, June 4, 1855.

IN reply to your communication of yesterday, I have the honour to inform you that Bembah Mimah Lahi's letter to me containing the list of goods you mention was handed by me to the government commissioner, Mr. Dillet, on his return from Sierra Leone on board the "Teazer," when en route to Malageah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. DAVISON.

J. Mallard, Esq., R.N.,
H.M.S. "Teazer," off Benty.

Enclosure 6. in No. 10.

Encl. 6. in No. 10.

Your Excellency and Gentlemen of the Council.

1. In entering upon my defence I shall endeavour to be as brief as the circumstances of my position will allow; but, before proceeding, I crave that you will bestow that attentive hearing which the nature of my case requires; that you will dispel from your minds such information with reference to myself that may have come to your knowledge, and that those impressions you may have formed from the many and conflicting statements which have been so gratuitously and ungenerously, publicly and privately, circulated will at once be set aside, and that your judgment, in no way influenced, will be formed from the evidence alone which has been and will be submitted for your consideration.

2. I stand here, gentlemen, under very peculiar disadvantages; I am before you actually prejudged, though not condemned. I cannot but justly complain that hearsay statements have been used as a basis of charges against me, and having been assumed without corroborative testimony to be substantially true, I am placed in the unenviable position of contending against them, a position which ought to concern every civil officer of the government. Unjustly deprived by Commodore Adams of the valuable evidence of Commander Nicolas, late of H. M. S. "Teazer," (Appendix A. and B.), and without the means of obtaining that of others no longer in the colony, I trust it will nevertheless be in my power

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to justify my conduct, and to adduce satisfactory evidence which will set aside that blame which the voice, not of truth but of the unscrupulous, raised against me.

3. I maintain, that individually I am in no way responsible for the joint acts of the commission. On a former occasion my conduct was made the subject of a court of inquiry, and having then had the satisfaction of disproving by the evidence for the prosecution every one of the malignant statements which were made against me, I had hoped that the unscrupulousness of Mahmodoo Touray would have been sufficiently condemned, and not that the rectitude of conduct of any officer of this government should again be made the subject of an investigation upon testimony so suspicious, and that from the lips of a prisoner naturally biassed.

4. Painfully as I feel the position in which I am placed, it becomes doubly so when I am driven to the resort of calling upon those associated with me, over whose opinions and decisions the veil of secrecy should be placed, to reveal that which was resolved upon in confidence.

5. I will now enter into the first charge: "For having participated in the seizure of "Mohamadoo Turie, prime minister to the King of Malageah, whilst under protection of "a flag of truce, on the 22d May 1855, such conduct being contrary to the laws of war, "and tending to bring discredit on the British authority."

6. It will be sufficient for me to call your attention to the evidence of Messrs. Bedbadere and Lyons already before the government as given before the Court of Inquiry, to which I have made previous allusion, and, secondly, to that of Captain Fletcher, one of the late commissioners (Appendix C., questions 1. and 2.), which will at once disprove this charge, and set aside the unhappy impression which it would convey.

7. I would have silently passed by the latter part of this charge, but as it will serve me to contend against the third, I at once place my denial upon the evidence of Lieutenant Kerr (Appendix D.) and Captain Fletcher (Appendix C., questions 3. and 6.), and, though I did not participate in the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray, I will at once assert the natives could not shelter themselves under a flag of truce when its sanctity had been invaded, its honour trampled upon, and its uses violated, and that by them alone. It is clearly in the evidence of Lieutenant Kerr that the natives availed themselves of the flag to "gut" their houses and remove their property; and last, Lieutenant Kerr distinctly states he was present when the flag was pulled down; Touray was not then in custody. The evidence of Mr. Tapril, master of the "Teazer," (Appendix E.), confirms the statement of Captain Fletcher (Appendix C., question 6.), that Commander Nicolas hailed the ship to have the flag hauled down; it is therefore established beyond doubt that no flag was flying either on shore or on board at the time; how, do I ask, as has been asserted, could Touray have been seized under a flag of truce when in reality the flag had ceased to wave? I will support the evidence of these gentlemen (Lieutenant Kerr, Appendix D., question 4., and Captain Fletcher, Appendix C., question 5.), by quoting a passage from that learned and high authority Vattel, p. 408, which is analogous to the point. "To take advantage "of the cessation of arms in order to execute without danger certain things which are "prejudicial to the enemy, and which could not have been safely undertaken during the "continuance of hostilities, is circumventing and deceiving the enemy with whom the "compact has been made; it is a breach of the truce." Again, page 410, "As a truce "suspends hostilities without putting an end to the war, everything must, during the "continuance of a truce, be suffered to remain in its existing state, in all places of which "the possession is contested."

8. The second charge reads thus: "Retaining a letter from the King of Malageah, "together with a list of goods sent by that chief in part payment of the demand made "against him, paying no attention to the contents thereof, and proceeding to destroy the "king's town on the 22d May 1855."

9. I most indignantly and emphatically deny that I retained the letter and list of goods sent by the chief to Mr. Davison. Has the evidence before the Court of Inquiry been lost sight of? The testimony of the gentleman who wrote that letter, Mr. Lyons, is most positive; he asserts that Mr. Dillet himself told him that he had the list of goods, and this is confirmed by Mr. Bedbadere, who corroborates this testimony. Could there, however, be the slightest doubt upon the subject, that doubt will at once be dispelled by the evidence of Captain Fletcher (Appendix C., questions 7, 8, and 9), who states that I showed the commissioners the letter and list, and that every consideration and attention was paid to it, and that to treat for the payment alone they went on shore. Where then was the retention of which so much has been said? What was the result, however, of the commissioners visit? They found themselves completely overreached by cunning and clever natives, whilst they were waiting an hour at the wharf for some communication from the king; their property is removed, and when beyond the reach of the ship's guns, Mahmodoo Touray, the prime minister of famous notoriety, makes his appearance and attempts to deceive the commissioners, by giving but evasive answers (Appendix C., questions 10. and 11., evidence of Lyons before Court of Inquiry). To give the chief an opportunity of coming to terms, Commander Nicolas ordered but one shell to be thrown into the town, and some two or more minutes elapsed before a flag of truce was hoisted from the king's flagstaff. What other consideration then but attention to the king's letter induced the officer in command of the "Teazer" to cease hostilities for more than an hour, and not to bring the whole of the ships guns to bear simultaneously upon the town, and thus

unhesitatingly to have carried out his orders for its entire destruction? Unquestionably then the letter received at that time the most ample consideration.

10. Mr. Bedbadere in his cross examination states "he heard Captain Fletcher say to "Mahmadoo Touray, 'that he had seized the canoe with the goods, and if they would "'bring the remainder of the goods to make up the money, the goods that were in the "'canoe should be brought back to be counted with them;'" but this high functionary had finally the assurance to say "he could do nothing." (Evidence of Mr. Bedbadere before Court of Inquiry.) I did my duty by placing the letter into the hands of the other commissioners, when every attention was paid to the chief's letter. Commander Nicolas ceased hostilities for an hour, to enable the commissioners to treat upon the subject; and when he found no satisfactory result, he felt himself bound to proceed to the execution of those positive instructions which he had received from Commodore Adams.

11. For if Touray refused to afford information which he subsequently gave after the expedition, from whence, may I ask, were the commissioners to obtain it.

12. Captain Fletcher on behalf of the commissioners went so far in the matter as to tell Touray if they paid the money, they, the commissioners, would relinquish the fine. (Appendix C., question 11.) Local circumstances have since transpired with reference to the indemnification, of which the commissioners could not possibly have had information; and I am sure, gentlemen, that a sense of justice will not allow censure to be passed upon them for transactions of which they were in total ignorance, and which the king's own prime minister failed to afford them. How, may I ask, were the commissioners to act when they found themselves thus treated? The time had long gone by which was given to cease hostilities, to enable the commissioners to "palaver" with the king himself, whose presence, from the nature of the commissioners' instructions (Appendix C., question 12.), was indispensable, as they had to make a treaty with him; nothing therefore remained but to relinquish that friendly disposition which they had evinced towards the natives, and to leave matters in the hands of Commander Nicolas, who had ample instructions how to deal with them.

13. Mr. Bedbadere, who must be regarded as an impartial witness, and who had suffered heavy losses from the destruction of the king's town, unhesitatingly and conscientiously asserts, that "the time given the king to pay the money was sufficient." He was too well acquainted with the natives of that locality to say otherwise, and he had ample opportunity of knowing that no reliance could be placed on their word. In fact, Mr. F. Caille, a trader in the Mellicourie, speaking from experience, told the court "very few natives of the rivers keep their promises with regard to money matters" (Evidence before inquiry); and unfortunately the king of Malageah has given ample proof that he was one of the many. Mr. Lyons, who wrote the letter, was himself deceived, as will presently be seen, for it came out in the cross-examination of that gentleman that the king had not the whole of the money, and was therefore not prepared to pay, with evidence so clear, and that too from the lips of a witness before the court of inquiry for the prosecution. I have even gone so far as to show that, notwithstanding the attention paid to the king's letter, its contents were stamped with studied falsehood; more than a day had elapsed after the canoe with goods had been sent to Mr. Davison; how then could the king have sent goods to Binty by next tide, as he said he would do, when he really had them not in his possession? Furthermore, there were cattle which were stated by the chiefs to belong to them, and which they said were tied up at the wharf at Malageah to give the commissioners (Mallard's reports, June 1855), whereas we have the testimony of Lyons and Bedbadere to the contrary, and that supported by the very man to whom they actually belonged. (Appendix F.) Again, the king told Mr. Mallard that the horse belonging to himself, intended as part payment, was also shot; whereas Mr. Lyons distinctly declares that it was his property, and never that of the king. Mr. Lyons had, on the arrival of the "Teazer," pointed out this identical horse to the officers as being a recent purchase; his artful prime minister, not being acquainted with all of the facts, attempted to impose upon the commissioners.

14. I trust, gentlemen, that having so fully acquainted you with circumstances attending this portion of that mission, you will perceive that the Government had been treated with marked contempt by the native authorities, that great forbearance had been exercised towards them, that every attention was paid to their promises, though they were known to be a deceiving and faithless people; and I hope I may be permitted to say that their pretensions for arranging matters, after all the deceptions which you have heard they practised from beginning to end, will be looked upon by you, gentlemen, with well grounded doubts.

15. You have before you, gentlemen, the most positive testimony of Captain Fletcher that I did not participate in the seizure of Mahmadoo Touray; surely, with such evidence before you, you will not censure me for want of more attention to the king's letter than I had paid, when the evidence of Mr. Lyons before the court of inquiry informs you that Touray stated "Now that you have made me prisoner I will not say anything." I before said the destruction of the town on the 22d May 1855 was only in obedience to the positive instructions which Commander Nicholas had received from Commodore Adams.

16. The third charge reads thus: "Participating in the second attack on Malageah on "the 23d May 1855, after he was aware that the greater part of the town had been "destroyed the previous day, and severe punishment already inflicted."

17. I come now to the third and last charge preferred against me, which appears so extraordinary I cannot but imagine that some misconception has been made with reference

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to the instructions of Commander Nicholas given by Commodore Adams, and those issued by the Acting Governor to the commissioners.

18. I deny having advised a second attack, but at the same time it would be ungenerous towards Commander Nicolas did I for a moment attempt to conceal the fact that every step he took was with the full knowledge of the commissioners, for he considered it becoming to acquaint them of determinations which he had arrived at, formed, as they were, upon a sense of that duty which it was his solicitude to have satisfactorily performed.

19. Totally unconnected with orders for the destruction of the king's town (Appendix C. Question 15.) it is strange to charge the civil commissioner with acts so manifestly beyond his control. Would it, may I ask, have been becoming the civil commissioner to have attempted to dictate or suggest to Commander Nicolas the way in which he should have acted, intrusted as that officer was with the sole execution of duties so responsible, and which he himself distinctly stated would have rendered him liable to be tried by a court-martial (Appendix C., Question 14.) should they be ineffectually performed. To strengthen this assertion, I have only to point you to the emphatic terms in which Commander Nicolas replied to a remark made to Mr. Davison at that gentleman's table (Appendix G.), " Yes; but you see unfortunately my orders are imperative to destroy the town; now I have only partly destroyed it. To carry out my orders fully it becomes a matter of necessity that *we* return."

20. It will now be necessary for me to make some remarks upon the second part of this charge; accused in the first charge of a want of due regard to the laws of war, for which I contend no civilian ought to be held responsible where he is associated with professional naval and military men, I regret to find that my conduct has been censured for volunteering my services, impelled by those dictates and following those feelings which one's honour and loyalty would suggest. The learned Vattel, p. 414, lays it down as a sound doctrine that " undoubtedly while any hope remains, while we have yet any means of " serving our country, it is our duty to expose ourselves, and to brave every danger for " her sake." I therefore had hoped that my conduct in this particular would have been commended. I would ask your indulgence whilst I direct your attention to a view of this portion of the charge in another light. It is patent that I am well acquainted with Malagea; having resided in the Mellacourie for some time, (my colleagues were cognizant of that fact,) if it had so happened that from my knowledge of the locality my services were requested, and I had declined to place those services at the disposal of the officers in charge, and that the expedition had produced no worse results than it has done, I ask whether the probability does not occur to you, gentlemen, that the charge now under consideration would have opened with the words " not participating," &c. I am proud to think that, although I have now to answer the charge of " participating," that one of " not participating " in upholding the dignity of the British flag cannot be brought against me, for my loyalty is unimpeachable. I had a right to exercise my judgment in serving on shore, for I had no orders from the Government to the contrary.

21. Again, was I intrusted or responsible for that amount of punishment which should have been inflicted upon the natives? Had the suggestion of a second bombardment emanated from me, I would not even then admit being strictly responsible for its results, as no limitation was fixed for the amount of punishment the chiefs should receive.

22. Without, gentlemen, the evidence submitted for your consideration upon this charge I presume that the production of the commissioners instructions (Appendix H.) will alone be sufficient to rid me of blame in this particular, and to disclose the extraordinary position in which it would place me.

23. After leaving Malageah on the 22d May speculations arose among those on board as to the result of the firing of the town, and I gave it as my impression that the town was not half burnt; but to suppose that I, as a commissioner, would have advised any hostile step in the presence of a prisoner, who had the means from the deck of the ship of conversing with the natives on either bank of the river, is to throw on me unmerited contempt. I gave but an opinion on the subject. I never stated that I was aware previously to the second bombardment that the greater part of the town was not destroyed, because that was a matter of impossibility, the " Teazer" having left shortly after the town was fired.

24. I smile, gentlemen, to hear it said that severe punishment had been inflicted upon the natives. What punishment is it to burn down a " gutted" native town, when another could rise from its ashes in a week? It is a notorious fact that the natives will remove the very doors and windows of their houses when they anticipate hostilities, as being more valuable to them than their mud walls and bamboo roofs, and in this instance they had ample opportunity to do so, and availed themselves to a great extent of it.

25. Fortunately the native character is too well known to every member of this Board to doubt for a moment that they will suddenly be looked upon as upright and straightforward men, and deemed worthy of that credit so sacred to the honour of every civilized man.

26. For fear an impression might be formed that the course for me to have pursued would have been a rejection of the commission to Malageah, presuming I held any objection to the propriety of the undertaking, I will at once meet that point by quoting from Vattel, p. 380: " Government would be impracticable if every one of its instru-

" ments was to weigh its commands and thoroughly canvas their justice before he " obeyed them." SIERRA LEONE.

27. I have respectfully endeavoured, gentlemen, and I hope I have clearly shown, from unimpeachable testimony, that the charges have been grounded upon erroneous statements; but I cannot leave the presence of this Council Board without addressing myself individually to those members who on a former occasion pronounced their opinions with reference to certain statements made against me which they investigated, and who are again sitting, in obedience to the commands of high authority, to try these charges. To their noblest feelings, and to that elevated position which they hold under Her Majesty's Government, I appeal; to their conciences as men I appeal to cast aside their expressed opinions, and to form a judgment from the evidence, with those additional particulars which have been submitted for their consideration.

28. Personal feelings have never influenced my conduct in performing my duty to the best of my ability, and on this occasion I will support it by the testimony of Captain Fletcher (Appendix C., Questions 21 and 22.), and the pilot Jenkins (Appendix I.)

29. I have repeatedly served on missions to native chiefs, and hitherto it has been my good fortune to have my conduct appreciated, which your council records will fully show; should it be otherwise now, and it becomes my lot, from your decision this day, to relinquish the colonial civil service of this colony, it will be some solace to know and feel that my best endeavours, though humble they may have been, were always to promote the honour and welfare of that government under which I had served.

(Signed) J. E. DILLET.

Sierra Leone,
8th November 1855.

Enclosure 7 in No. 10. Encl. 7 in No. 10.

Council Chambers, Sierra Leone, November 8, 1855.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the Governor.
His Honor the Chief Justice.
Hon. the Colonial Secretary.
Hon. Robert Armstrong.
Hon. J. T. Commissiong.
Hon. Charles Heddle.

The minutes of the last council having been read and confirmed,—

Mr. Dillet was sent for to appear before the Board of Council, and having attended, his Excellency opened the proceedings by asking Mr. Dillet,—

" Are you prepared to enter on your trial on the charges furnished to you?"

Mr. Dillet replied, " Perfectly ready."

The Governor then addressed the Council as follows:

Gentlemen, Agreeably to the instructions contained in the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 23.* of the 22d September, which is now before you, it becomes my duty to bring under your consideration the conduct of Mr. Dillet, when commissioner on the part of this government, and one of those who accompanied the unfortunate expedition sent to Malageah by the acting governor Mr. Dougan. * Page 22.

I forwarded through the Colonial Secretary to Mr. Dillet charges embracing the points on which the Secretary of State considered that gentleman's conduct most culpable, and I now shall read and lay before you those charges for your investigation and consideration.

His Excellency here read the charges—

1st. For having participated in the seizure of Mohammodoo Turie, Prime Minister of the King of Malageah, whilst under the protection of a flag of truce on the 22d May, such conduct being contrary to the laws of war, and tending to bring discredit on the British authority.

2d. Returning a letter from the King of Malageah, together with a list of goods sent by that chief in part payment of the demand made against him, paying no attention to the contents thereof, and proceeding to destroy the king's town on the 22d May 1855.

3d. Participating in the second attack on Malageah on the 23d May 1855, after he was aware that the greater part of the town had been destroyed on the previous day, and severe punishment already inflicted.

Dated at Government House, Sierra Leone, 26th October 1855.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL, Governor.

His Excellency then read a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Dillet, and forwarding those charges, and continued—

In support of those charges I would refer you to the following written evidence:

1st. The report* of the commissioners themselves, of which Mr. Dillet was one, stating that Mohammodoo Turie had been seized after he had joined them under the protection of a flag of truce. * Vide Papers presented August 1855, page 19.

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2d. Mr. Davidson's letter, a copy of which you will see attached to the Court of Inquiry already on Mr. Dillet's conduct, showing that the letter with list of goods had been handed by Mr. Davidson to Mr. Dillet at Binty when the expedition had called there en route to Malageah on the 22d May last.

3d. The report of the commissioners that they had proceeded from Binty a second time on the 23d May to Malageah for the purpose of destroying the portion of that town left unburnt on the previous day.

Should you require any additional evidence than this already stated, I would submit, fourthly, the report and proceedings of the Board already held on Mr. Dillet with respect to complaints made against him by the natives at Malageah.

I now leave the case for your patient inquiry and consideration, and I shall be pleased if Mr. Dillet can clear himself from blame.

Mr. Dillet then read his defence, and his Excellency the Governor the appendix thereto, both of which are attached to these proceedings.

Mr. Heddle stated, that he had already given his opinion as to Mr. Dougan's mistake in appointing Mr. Dillet as commissioner.

In sending a commissioner from the Colonial Government to native chiefs, particularly when he was to act in concert with other commissioners, care should be taken that the person selected should, from his position and from his ability, have a certain weight with those gentlemen with whom to act, as well as with the chiefs to whom he may be sent.

In the choice of Mr. Dillet this essential qualification was wanting, and hence, from his total want of influence with the other commissioners and with the chief to whom the commissioners were sent, the whole of the disasters that took place on that unfortunate occasion may be attributed.

With reference to the first charge against Mr. Dillet, it was the opinion of Mr. Heddle that, from the evidence of Captain Fletcher and others, Mr. Dillet had cleared himself.

It appeared also to Mr. Heddle that Mr. Dillet was not guilty of the second charge, inasmuch as from the evidence of many persons it appeared that the letter in question was shown to the other commissioners.

On the third charge, he (Mr. Heddle) did not consider that Mr. Dillet could be entirely exonerated from blame, because if he differed in opinion with Commander Nicolas, he should have put that difference of opinion on record in the form of a letter addressed to him, which would then have carried more weight with it.

The Colonial Secretary quite concurred with Mr. Heddle as to the first charge, although it had not been clearly proved that no flag of truce was flying when Mohammodoo Turie was taken prisoner; yet, supposing that there was, and blame attached to any party for having so taken Mohammodoo Turie prisoner, that party was not Mr. Dillet. The naval and military officers were the persons mostly responsible for that charge.

He was therefore disposed to acquit Mr. Dillet on the first charge.

With regard to the second charge, he (the Colonial Secretary) thought the evidence adduced proved that Commander Nicolas and Captain Fletcher were equally culpable with Mr. Dillet. There did not appear to have been any concealment of a letter by Mr. Dillet, but at the same time he was bound to say that with regard to the charge of paying no attention, the utmost modification that he (the Colonial Secretary) could give was, that he was one of those parties who manifested at least a very unbecoming and improper indifference to the contents of the letter.

In his opinion the contents of that letter, taken in connexion with the goods offered, ought to have restrained the commissioners from proceeding to the extremity of burning the town.

With regard to the third charge, Mr. Dillet did not offer any exculpation. He did not deny, but rather seemed by his defence to glory in the course which he pursued, and he regretted very much that Mr. Dillet should have indulged in such expressions as to the insignificant nature of burning a native town.

To the chiefs at Malageah their town was as much entitled to respect, and to burn it was as much an outrage upon them as to burn the city of Free Town would be an outrage upon Queen Victoria.

While therefore he (the Colonial Secretary) fully acquitted Mr. Dillet of the first charge, he regretted that he was unable to do so with regard to the second and third.

If Captain Fletcher and Captain Nicolas were within the reach of the Council as civil officers of the Government, he should say the same thing of them, particularly as respected the second charge.

Mr. Armstrong said,—I exonerate Mr. Dillet from blame in the first charge, but on the second and third charges I regret that there is but little in the defence offered before us to-day which could induce me to alter the opinion I before expressed of the expedition to Malageah, which has been truly characterized as disgraceful to the British power.

Our censure is but poor reparation for the sad sacrifice of life or the injuries already past, but it may serve to prevent unlawful acts and future injuries from being committed.

I think we are moderately carrying out the instructions of the Secretary of State in advising that all parties deserving of blame in this disastrous affair may meet with their deserts.

Mr. Commissiong said,—From the evidence of Captain Fletcher, Mr. Dillet appears to be entirely exonerated from blame with regard to the participating in the capture and detention of Mohammodoo Turie.

It also appears to me that he is not guilty of having retained the letter together with a list of goods sent by the chief in part payment of the demand made against him, but it does not appear that any steps were taken either by Mr. Dillet or the other commissioners to meet the views of the king in this respect. I cannot therefore entirely free him from blame in the second charge.

With regard to the third charge, Mr. Dillet admits that he volunteered his services to accompany the expedition ashore for the purpose of completing the burning and destroying the town of Malageah, and actually prides himself in having so acted.

His Honour the Chief Justice, said,—The charges preferred against Mr. Dillet are, &c. (*His Honour here read the charges over*), and proceeded as follows:—I thought at first that it would be advisable that the Board of Council should be adjourned for a short period, in order to give members time to consider on the charges, and the evidence, &c.; but, as the other members have expressed their opinions, I am now called upon to give mine.

I must first distinguish between the conduct of Mr. Dillet and that of the other commissioners. I do not think it fair to judge the other commissioners; we are only to investigate Mr. Dillet's share of the matter.

The first charge is, &c. (*Reads the charge.*)

From the report made and signed by Mr. Dillet and the other commissioners—(*Quotes the commissioners report*). It would appear from such testimony that a flag of truce had been hoisted, the commissioners landed, and that Mahmodoo Turie, the king's prime minister, came down, some conversation ensued, and he was detained.

I cannot altogether acquit Mr. Dillet, in this matter, of blame; at any rate he must have concurred in the act.

He (Mahmodoo Turie) had come down to treat with them, and it was Mr. Dillet's bounden duty, even if the flag of truce had not been attended to by the other side, to have allowed him to retire before they proceeded to carry into effect their orders.

I therefore do not think that, as civil commissioner and private secretary and in the acting governor's confidence, he can be acquitted of having participated in the detention of Mahmodoo Turie.

The next charge is retaining a letter from the King of Malageah.

Evidence has been given showing that a canoe had been sent with goods to Binty the previous day with a promise that by the next tide the remainder should be sent, and that Mr. Dillet when he went to Binty the second time had received a letter written by the chief to Mr. Davidson in relation to these goods.

It does not appear that the letter was concealed from Captain Fletcher's statement, and from that of Commander Nicolas, but proper attention had not been paid to it, and I cannot acquit Mr. Dillet from blame in disregarding the contents of that letter.

That money would or might have been paid if more attention had been shown to it.

With regard to the third charge,—From the facts it appears that the party landed, and a portion of the town was destroyed; the vessel then went down to Binty and returned the next day, and the party again landed, amongst whom was Mr. Dillet, to effect the entire destruction of the town. Mr. Dillet made no remonstrance. It was not the duty of a civil commissioner to participate in such a proceeding.

The object of the Government is to encourage trade and to extend civilization, and a proceeding of this kind cannot be too greatly reprehended.

On the second day Mr. Dillet landed and participated in burning the town, and I cannot acquit him from blame.

It is to be regretted, but, as Mr. Armstrong says, no false delicacy should exist in passing our opinion on these proceedings, as it may have the effect of preventing a recurrence of such events.

The object of a civil commissioner should have been to have restrained the officers, and not to participate in the destruction of the town on the second day.

We have heard nothing in the defence to justify such conduct, and my opinion is that Mr. Dillet has not acquitted himself from blame.

His Excellency the Governor then said,—It appears to me to be the opinion of the majority of the Council in this case that Mr. Dillet is "not guilty" of the first charge.

With respect to the second charge that Mr. Dillet is guilty of so much of this charge, that he proceeded to participate in the destruction of the king's town, paying little respect to the offer of payment made in the king's letter to Mr. Davidson.

With regard to the third charge it is unanimous that Mr. Dillet is "guilty."

Question from the Governor to the Council—

"Is it the opinion of the Council, taking into consideration the instructions contained in "the Secretary of State's despatch on the subject, that Mr. Dillet should be suspended

SIERRA LEONE.

" from his office as fourth writer in the Colonial Secretary's Office, pending the decision " of the Secretary of State?"

The opinion of the Council was that he should.

This terminated Mr. Dillet's case, and the Council adjourned " sine die."

REGINALD G. PALMER,
Clerk of Council.

Confirmed on the 19th Nov. 1855.

STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HILL.

(No. 76.)

SIR, Downing-street, January 22, 1856.

No. 213. 17th Nov. 1855. 20th Nov. 1855. No. 214. 21st Nov. 1855. No. 216.* 21st Nov. 1855.

I HAVE received your despatches of the Nos. and dates noted in the margin, reporting the proceedings taken before the Council of Sierra Leone, in pursuance of the instructions of my predecessor in this office, for inquiring into the conduct of Mr. Dougan, while administering the government of that colony, and of Mr. Dillet, in connexion with the unfortunate expedition against Malageah.

†Page 22.

My predecessor has stated his opinion in regard to that expedition so fully in his despatch of the 22d September last, No. 23,† that it only remains for me to express my concurrence in the views contained in that despatch with regard to the past transactions and the policy which ought to be pursued in future in our dealings with the natives.

Mr. Dougan's defence of his conduct in connexion with the late expedition does not in the least mitigate the severe censure which my predecessor passed on the measure itself and the mode in which it was executed.

It is not necessary that I should express any opinion as to the propriety of Mr. Dougan's having ordered the expedition against Malageah in November 1854 without previous instructions from the Secretary of State, but there is nothing in the circumstances of that expedition which can afford a precedent for his subsequent proceedings.

In November 1854 grave outrages had been committed against the property and persons of British and French subjects, and there appeared to be sufficient grounds for believing that immediate interference was necessary to prevent more serious evils. The instructions given on that occasion were properly framed so as to give an opportunity for satisfaction being offered by the native chiefs before extreme measures were resorted to, and the objects of the expedition were therefore accomplished without bloodshed.

It was upon these considerations that the Secretary of State's approval of Mr. Dougan's conduct was specially founded, as stated in the despatch of 22d Feb. 1855.

In the recent expedition no acts of aggression on the part of the natives had been alleged, the only imputation against them being that they had failed to produce within a stipulated time the amount which they had agreed to pay on the occasion of the former expedition; yet the instructions given by Mr. Dougan were, that coercive measures should be taken against the chiefs; that they should be chastised, and King Bamba Mina Lahai be brought, if possible, to Sierra Leone, and that the only way of punishing the chiefs was to destroy their town.

It is impossible to deprecate too strongly instructions of such a tenor in a case where there was no adequate provocation, and framed in such a manner as to make a conflict almost inevitable.

I regret, therefore, to say that I have come to the conclusion that the errors which Mr. Dougan committed have been of so grave a nature, and the consequences which ensued from them so disastrous, as to make it necessary for me to mark my sense of them by confirming the unanimous decision of the Council of Sierra Leone, whereby he was suspended from his office of Queen's Advocate; and I can hold out to him no expectation of his being again

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* Not included in the present papers. See note at foot of page 35.

restored to public employment in a colony in which his name will be inseparably connected with such lamentable events.

I have adopted this course with the greater regret, because I have reason to believe that Mr. Dougan's past services as Queen's Advocate have been meritorious, and that he has considerable ability and acquirements.

With respect to Mr. Dillet's conduct in the expedition, I am prepared to make full allowance for his position as an officer employed to carry into effect the orders of a superior; but he cannot be acquitted from serious blame.

His instructions appear to have specially contemplated the conclusion of a new treaty with the chiefs, and as he was the only civilian employed in the expedition, he ought to have used his influence in that capacity to attain the objects of the expedition by pacific measures, and to have urged his colleagues to open direct communication with the king.

There is no reason to suppose that a day's delay would have caused any difficulty in eventually resorting to force, if that were required; and there is sufficient evidence to show that the endeavours of the natives to pay what was required of them were not properly attended to.

Mr. Dillet, however, did not decline to share the responsibility of the proceedings of his colleagues, and to sign the report in which those proceedings were given in detail, raising no objection to them, with the exception of the remark which he made on the seizure of the king's prime minister, Mahmodoo Touray, that he was not worth detaining, as he had no influence with the king.

The Council of Sierra Leone have acquitted Mr. Dillet of the charge of having been instrumental in the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray, but he should have protested against an act which he ought to have known to be inconsistent with the honour of the British name.

It is of little consequence whether the flag of truce had been hauled down (as Mr. Dillet alleges) or not at the time of the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray. As that person had voluntered his presence for the purpose of settling the matters in dispute, he ought, on the failure of that attempt, to have had full permission to depart. And, in reference to this part of the case, I must remark that it is most essential that in dealing with the natives good faith should be scrupulously maintained towards them on all occasions.

If the conflict with the natives, which unfortunately followed, had been unavoidable, Mr. Dillet's co-operation as an officer holding a commission in the Sierra Leone militia would have been creditable to him, but it is only on that supposition that his conduct in this respect can be justified.

Having duly considered, however, all the circumstances of the case as regards Mr. Dillet, and making allowance, as I have already observed, for his subordinate position, and being further of opinion that the result of the inquiry leaves no established imputation on his character, I have come to the conclusion that the suspension from office and loss of salary which he will have undergone from the date of the decision of the Council to that of the arrival of my present despatch will be sufficient to mark my sense of his very reprehensible conduct, and that his dismissal or further suspension is not required for the interests of the public service. I have, therefore, to authorize you, on the receipt of this despatch, to restore him, as an act of indulgence, to his office as writer in the Colonial Secretary's office; but I am of opinion that it will not be proper to intrust him again with any commission of so important and responsible a nature as that on which he was employed on the late unfortunate occasion.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor Hill, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 12.

No. 12.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Hill to Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

Government House, Sierra Leone,

(No. 246.) December 18, 1855.

(Received January 21, 1856.)

Sir, (Answered, No. 78., January 29, 1856.)

I have the honour to forward herewith for your consideration, a communication from Mr. Dougan, submitting a letter addressed to him by the

SIERRA LEONE.

merchants trading in the Mellicourie and the rivers to the northward of this colony on the subject of Mr. Dougan's suspension from the office of Queen's Advocate.

I have, &c.

Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL, Governor.

Encl. in No. 12.

Enclosure in No. 12.

SIR, Sierra Leone, December 17, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a letter which I have this day received from the merchants trading in the Mellicourie and other rivers to the northward on the subject of my suspension from office.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Signed) R. DOUGAN.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 12.

SIR, Sierra Leone, November 30, 1855.

As merchants and traders interested in the success of the ground nut trade extensively carried on in the rivers to the northward of this colony, we cannot allow the present events to pass without expressing to you our sympathy and regret for the untoward circumstances which have led to your suspension from office as Queen's Advocate.

Mori Lahi, by his arbitrary conduct in November last, placed a very considerable amount of British property in extreme jeopardy, which might have proved the ruin of many of us, had it not been for the prompt measures you at that period adopted as Acting Governor.

Had the officer who commanded that expedition demanded the immediate reparation, instead of taking a mere promise, ulterior consequences would have been avoided, and we should not now have to deplore the melancholy loss of life which resulted from an endeavour to enforce the observance of good faith on the part of the king when, upon the first occasion, it could have been effected without risk.

We do not consider your demand on Mori Lahi in the light of a mere collection of a debt, but as involving the great principle of impressing upon the native chiefs the necessity of strictly acting up to such treaties as they may enter into with the British Government.

Much as the results of the expedition are to be deplored, we cannot but consider that you have been visited with the penalty of the non-success of a combined naval and military movement, over which, when once launched, you could have no control; and in concluding we repeat our expressions of sympathy for the position you are placed in by an endeavour to uphold the great principle we have alluded to; and we trust that this, and your standing in the colony, and the services you have rendered the government for many years past, may be taken into consideration, and a favourable view of your case arrived at by Her Majesty's ministers.

We are, &c.

(Signed)

THOS. READER.	W. ROSENBUSH.
W. H. WISE.	J. RIGNANDOS.
D. H. DAVISON.	E. LEMON.
EDWARD READER.	W. B. JOLLY.
ALEX. WALKER.	ALEX. DUPIGNY.
P. KIDD.	OLDFIELD & Co.
A. VALENTINE.	CARNE & MACKRETH.

Robert Dougan, Esq., &c. Sierra Leone.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HILL.

(No. 78.)

SIR, Downing Street, January 29, 1855.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 246, of 18th ult., forwarding a letter addressed to me by Mr. Dougan, with a letter

from the merchants trading in the Mellicourie and other rivers to the northward of Sierra Leone, on the subject of his suspension from the office of Queen's Advocate. SIERRA LEONE.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 14.

No. 14.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hill to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere.

(No. 68.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,
March 11, 1856.

Sir, (Received May 5, 1856.)

I have had the honour to receive your Despatch, No. 76, of the 22d January last, conveying to me your instructions with regard to Messrs. Dougan and Dillet, who were suspended from their respective offices, agreeably to a decision of the Board of Council in connexion with the unfortunate expedition to Malageah.

2. I beg leave to inform you, that Mr. Dougan has been made acquainted with your confirmation of the unanimous opinion of the Council, whereby he was suspended from his office as Queen's Advocate, and also informed that no expectation can be held out to him of his being again restored to public employment in this colony; and your expressions of approval, with regard to Mr. Dougan's past services as Queen's Advocate, have been also conveyed to him.

3. Mr. Dillet has resumed his duties as fourth writer in the office of the Colonial Secretary, on the understanding that he has been restored as an act of indulgence, and he appears grateful for the leniency extended towards him.

4. I have noted, and shall pay attention to your opinion, that Mr. Dillet should not again be intrusted with any commission of so important and responsible a nature as that on which he was employed on the late unfortunate occasion.

5. The policy you recommend in dealing with the natives shall be strictly attended to; and I beg leave to add, that in all my communications with them good faith has been scrupulously maintained, as I am perfectly satisfied one cannot be too particular to impress on their uneducated minds the high principle of honour that actuates the servants of Her Majesty's Government, who are sent to this country for the benefit and regeneration of its benighted people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c &c.

SIERRA LEONE.

Correspondence with the War Department.

No. 1.

No. 1.

Copy of a LETTER from Colonel Mundy to H. Merivale, Esq.

Sir, War Department, July 31, 1855.

19th July 1855. I am directed by Lord Panmure to transmit to you the copies of a letter from the Horse Guards, and its enclosure from Lieut.-Colonel O'Connor, commanding the troops on the West Coast of Africa, reporting the disastrous results of a recent expedition against the town of Malageah on the Mallicourie River; and I am to request that you will call the attention of Secretary Sir William Molesworth to the representation contained in Lieut.-Colonel O'Connor's despatch, affecting the judgment and discretion of Acting Governor Dougan in the matter of the instructions he issued to Captain Fletcher for carrying out this service. I am to add that Lord Panmure awaits with anxiety the receipt of an explanation from Mr. Dougan of the grounds on which the expedition in question was ordered by him; and, in particular, whether he took the usual and necessary precaution of consulting the naval and military authorities on the spot in regard to the manner in which the service should be conducted, and to the amount and description of force to be employed.

I am, &c.

H Merivale, Esq. (Signed) G. C. MUNDY.

Encl in No. 1.

[Enclosure in No. 1.

Sir, Horse Guards, July 19, 1855.

21st June 1855. I have received the directions of the General Commanding-in-Chief, to transmit to you, for submission to Lord Panmure, the accompanying letter from Lieut.-Colonel O'Connor, 1st West India Regiment, commanding the troops on the West Coast of Africa, communicating the particulars of an expedition which was undertaken on the 21st May last, by desire of Acting Governor Dougan, to Malageah, Mallacourie River, where an encounter took place between the natives and a detachment of the 1st and 2d West India Regiments, who it appears, after partly accomplishing the object in view, were compelled to retreat with a loss of two officers and seventy-two men killed, and one officer and twelve men wounded. It will be observed, that Lieut.-Colonel O'Connor attributes this unprecedented casualty to the small amount of force, as per margin, which was required to be furnished for the expedition in question.

1 Captain.
5 Subalterns.
3 Staff.
150 Men of all ranks.

I have, &c.

Colonel Mundy. (Signed) C. Yorke.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

Head Quarters, Gambia, Western Coast of Africa,

Sir, June 21, 1855.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the General Commanding-in-chief, the gist of a despatch received by me from Captain Richard D'Oyley Fletcher, 1st West India Regiment, commanding the troops at Sierra Leone.

2. On the afternoon of the 21st of May, at half past three o'clock, Captain Fletcher received from Acting Governor Dougan a requisition for 150 men of all ranks of the 1st and 3d West India Regiment, to embark on board Her Majesty's Steamer "Teazer," which appears to have been promptly carried out, as nearly all the men and officers were on board the same evening at six o'clock.

3. The "Teazer" arrived at Benty Point, the mouth of the Mellicourie River, on the morning of the 22d. The tide not suiting a delay ensued, but at nine o'clock a.m. the steamer anchored off Malageah, where the troops disembarked under cover of the "Teazer's" guns, and formed upon the bank.

At the time of landing a flag of truce was flying at the king's house and on board of the "Teazer."

4. With the advice of two other commissioners, Lieut.-Commander Nicolas, R.N., of the "Teazer," and Mr. Dillet, Private Secretary to Acting Governor Dougan, Captain Fletcher consented to allow one hour to elapse before opening fire on the town. After a

lapse of more than one hour and a half Commander Nicolas returned on board the "Teazer," and opened with shell and grape to cover the troops, who immediately commenced to advance, entered the town, occupied the centre, it would seem without opposition, and after setting fire to the mosque, king's house, and several of the principal buildings, the whole town appearing in a blaze, retired to the boats on account of the extreme heat of the burning houses.

5. Whilst embarking, a sharp fire was opened upon the troops from both sides of the landing place by the enemy in ambush, but only five of the soldiers were wounded.

6. After all had got on board the "Teazer" it was discovered that one portion of the town had not been burnt; Captain Fletcher again consulted with the other two commissioners, and they determined to proceed as far as Benty Point that evening, to return on the following morning and effectually reduce the whole of the place to ashes, according to the instructions given by Governor Dougan to that effect.

7. Starting from Benty, 7 a.m. on the 23d, at half past five o'clock the "Teazer" anchored off the town of Malageah, which was still in flames, and commenced throwing in shell and grape occasionally into the bushes.

8. After the lapse of half an hour the troops disembarked, no enemy appearing in sight to resist the landing; the men formed and advanced upon the town for the purpose of setting fire to the parts still standing.

9. Commander Nicolas, R.N., and Mr. Dillet proceeded with the advance, for the purpose of pointing out the houses to be destroyed, "the main division prepared to cover the advance,"—I presume Captain Fletcher means support,—when at this moment Captain Fletcher observed them driven back, having been suddenly attacked by an overwhelming number of well-armed natives.

10. Mr. Dillet fell to the rear, wounded in the head and left leg.

Commander Nicolas, R.N., was at the same time shot through both thighs, and Serjeant-major Scanlan, 3d West India Regiment, killed upon the spot; while the handful of men, some thirty, forming the advance, rapidly fell under the enemy's fire.

11. The enemy having almost surrounded and cut off the divisions, and pressing upon them in all directions, the retire was sounded. Captain Fletcher, Lieutenant Wylie of the 1st West India Regiment (who was subsequently killed), Lieutenant Vincent of the 2d West India Regiment, and some eighteen or twenty men, were driven back upon a small island of mud and sand on the left entrance to the town of Malageah.

12. A great number of the men were shot here, and Lieutenant Vincent, 2d West India Regiment, was shot through the body near the region of the heart. It would appear, but not very clearly in what way, that the embarkation of the men took place when the largest boat, the pinnace, containing forty men, suddenly filled and capsized, having been perforated with bullets.

13. The enemy shot our troops struggling in the water, or butchered those who crawled on shore.

14. Acting Deputy Assistant Commissary General Firth was taken prisoner; his fate seems shrouded in a melancholy mystery; for from all I can learn, publicly or privately, he was tortured or escaped into the woods and starved to death.

15. Captain Fletcher inserts Mr. Firth's name in the return of officers killed.

16. Captain Fletcher reports taking "prisoner Mamedoo Touray, prime minister to the King of Malageah, and other valuable spoil," but does not specify what the latter consisted of.

17. The whole of the shell, grape, and canister having been expended, and the banks of the river lined with armed men, the troops embarked, with the exception of those that sunk with the pinnace, who were wounded or taken prisoners; they proceeded slowly down the river, firing while retiring, after the refusal of the enemy to respect the flag of truce which was hoisted by Captain Fletcher upon the sinking of the boat; and, Sir, the shattered remains of the most disastrous expedition on the western coast of Africa since the massacre of Sir Charles M'Carthy returned to Sierra Leone on the 24th of May.

18. I have the honour to enclose a nominal roll of killed and wounded. I am certain that Viscount Hardinge will be pained to observe that two officers and seventy-two men were killed, and one officer and twelve men wounded, an unprecedented casualty of eighty-four (hors de combat) in a small force of 150 men.

Killed.
Lieut. Wylie, 1st W. I. Reg.
Act. D. A. C. Gen. Firth.

Wounded.
Lieut. Vincent, 2d W. I. Reg.

19. As commandant of the troops on the Western Coast of Africa for nearly four years, —as an officer of upwards of twenty-eight years service in various tropical countries, and having some little experience in the habits and system of warfare of uncivilized nations,— as an act of common justice to Captain Fletcher, and to the officers and men who fought so manfully under him,—as a sacred sad duty to the memory of those who have fallen, many of whom, although humble soldiers, were well-tried attached comrades, and faithful followers of mine for the last twenty-five years,—I hesitate not to assert that the contingent ordered by Acting Governor Dougan was totally inadequate in strength to carry out the hazardous and important service demanded in Mr. Dougan's instructions to Captain Fletcher.

1 Captain.
5 Subalterns.
3 Staff.
150 Men of all ranks.

20. In November last, when Acting Governor Dougan ordered a similar expedition against the king and chiefs of Malageah, he and Captain Heseltine of Her Majesty's ship "Brittomart" agreed 300 men of all ranks would be required "should the pacific measures, which will be attempted, prove a failure." To complete this required number my Gambia

Act. Gov. Dougan to Lt. Col. Foster, 3d W. I. Reg., 27 Nov. 1854.

SIERRA LEONE.

contingent, sent to relieve Governor Hill at Accra, with Her Majesty's colonial steamer "Dover," was detained at Sierra Leone, and the garrison duty taken by the militia.

Captain Rookes, 2d W. I. Reg. to his Excelleney Lt. Col. O'Connor, Commanding Sierra Leone, Dec. 1854.

21. From documents now before me, I find that Captain Rookes, 2d West India Regiment, in command of the first expedition to Malageah, had ten regimental and six staff officers and 386 men, with the powerful aid of Her Majesty's steam ship "Prometheus," Her Majesty's colonial steamer "Dover," strengthened by the crew and guns of Her Majesty's ship "Brittomart," in addition to her own force, and under the immediate command of Captain Heseltine, R.N. (an officer of long and well-tried experience, negotiating with the natives of Africa), and the pinnaces and boats of the "Brittomart."

A 24-pound congreve rocket gun with my contingent.

Captain Rookes, 2d W. I. Reg. to his Excellency Lt. Col. O'Connor, Commanding, December 1854.

22. Captain Rookes, in his report to me, states, "I observed about 1,600 to 2,000 "natives, all completely armed with firelocks, spears, swords, bows and arrows, in a half "circle, and averaging from eight to ten deep."

23. Yet, with all this in remembrance, six officers, five of them young subalterns, three staff, and 150 men of all ranks are sent up in a small steamer, the "Teazer," formerly tender to Her Majesty's frigate "Penelope," without paddle-box boats or gun boats,—in fact, as Captain Fletcher informs me, with only two boats to embark and disembark the soldiers; at that very time Commodore Adams in Her Majesty's flag ship "Scourge" and Her Majesty's steam ship "Hecate" being in the harbour of Sierra Leone.

24. I trust, Sir, that Viscount Hardinge will not for a moment imagine I forget myself so far as to question the policy or acts of Acting Governor Dougan, or deem me presumptuous in drawing his Lordship's attention to the recent unhappy untoward event; but, sensibly alive to the honour of the Queen's service, jealous of the credit of my own regiment, which bears upon its colours the badges of "Martinique," "Dominica," "Guadaloupe," and assuredly not less so of that of every officer and soldier under my command, I hazard, even at the risk of incurring censure, my honest, straightforward, and firm opinion, that fully treble the number of the last contingent, with a proportionate field train, and full means of conveyance, were absolutely necessary to ensure success in carrying out Acting Governor Dougan's instructions of reducing Malageah to ashes.

Captain Fletcher's Despatch, Sierra Leone, 26th May 1855, paragraph 6.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. SMYTH O'CONNOR,
Lieut.-Colonel 1st West India Regiment,
commanding the troops Western Coast
of Africa.

Sub-Inclosure 2.

NOMINAL RETURN of Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Privates of the 1st, 2d, and 3d West India Regiments killed, wounded, and missing at Malageah on the 22d and 23d of May 1855.

1st WEST INDIA REGIMENT.

KILLED.

Lieutenant Wylie.
Serjeant Henry Bailey.
Drummer Francis Cassemear.
Private James Adams.
" James Bull.
" William Butts.
" John Balfour.
" Tom Crib.
" Dick Danby.
" Charles Davis.
" J. M. Davis.
" Thomas Deacups.
" Charles Edmonstone.
" Robert Fishbourn.
" Michael Gernon.
" Charles Graves.
" Fins Green.
" William Kenip.
" William Lane.
" Lord Liverpool.
" Fergus M'Ivor.
" Alexander M'Kenzie.
" Cookey Mayne.
" Hamilton O'Bins.
" Norman Macdonald.
" Neville Peto.
" Sydney Powel.
" Henry Phipps.
" John Sancho.
" George Stapleton.
Private Robert Taylor.
" Florrence Torrence.
" Thomas Wilson.
" Charles Wyse.
" William Wellesley.

WOUNDED.

Drummer Hungerford Egar
Private William Hall.
" Henry Martin.

MISSING.

Serjeant Robert Simpson.

2d WEST INDIA REGIMENT.

WOUNDED.

Lieutenant Vincent dangerously.

3d WEST INDIA REGIMENT.

KILLED.

Company Serjeant Major John Scanlon.
Serjeant Thomas Jones.
" Sambo Luke.
Corporal Thomas Rickett.
Drummer Charles Paginini.
" Thomas Waite
Private George Bamswell.
" Charles Coloville.
" James Cummings.
" Henry Chester.

Private Edward Dodwell.
" Henry Frazer.
" Charles Grantham.
" Mitchell Harris.
" Hugh Haywood.
" Hayzell Francis.
" Robert Hughes.
" Charles W. Johnson.
" Baron Jomine.
" Abraham Keyon.
" Edward Lynch.
" William M'Grigor.
" Thomas Macfarlen.
" James Mends.
" George Murphy.
" Charles Murry.
" Dennis Pack.
" William Scott.
" Robert Sharp.
" Jack Spratt.
" John Sterling.
" William Sutton.

Private John Tapp.
" Joseph Taylor
" John Williams.
" John Wright.
" James Collier.
" Thomas John.

WOUNDED.

Corporal James Lawson.
Private Samuel Bulgin.
" Richard Hall.
" Charles Hamilton.
" Thomas Hook.
" George Logan.
" King Tom.
" William Maxwell.

COMMISSARIAT STAFF

KILLED.

Acting Dep. Ass. Com. Gen. Firth.

(Signed) R. D. O. FLETCHER,
Captain 1st West India Regiment
commanding the troops.

A true copy.
(Signed) J. W. HALEMAN, Lieut.,
Garrison Adjutant.

No. 2. No. 2.

COPY of a LETTER from J. BALL, Esq., M.P., to Colonel MUNDY.

SIR, Downing-street, October 19, 1855.

WITH reference to your letter of the 31st July, forwarding a report from Lieut.-Colonel O'Connor, relative to the recent expedition against the Moriah chiefs in the vicinity of Sierra Leone, I am directed by Secretary Sir W. Molesworth to transmit to you, for the consideration of Lord Panmure, a copy of the papers presented to Parliament on this subject, together with copies of further despatches received from the Acting Governor of Sierra Leone since those papers were presented.

Papers presented August 1855.
No. 132. 31st July 1855, p. 8.
No. 134. 2d Aug., p. 14.

I am also to enclose extracts of a despatch* which Sir Wm. Molesworth has addressed to Governor Hill in answer to the several despatches relative to the expeditions undertaken against the Moriah chiefs, and I am to request that you will bring under Lord Panmure's notice the views which Sir Wm. Molesworth has been compelled to express with reference to the military conduct of the expeditions, and the violation of the flag of truce which was committed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. BALL.

No. 3. No. 3.

COPY of a LETTER from Colonel MUNDY to J. BALL, Esq., M.P.

SIR, War Department, November 27, 1855.

YOUR letter of 19th October and its enclosures relative to the recent expedition against the Moriah chiefs in the vicinity of Sierra Leone having been communicated to the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief for his Lordship's consideration, in so far as the remarks contained in it affect the conduct and proceedings of Captain Fletcher of the 1st West India Regiment, I am directed by Lord Panmure to transmit to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, the copy of a letter which Viscount Hardinge has caused to be addressed to Governor Hill on the subject.

17 Nov. 1855.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. C. MUNDY.

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* Extracts of Sir W. Molesworth's Despatch to Governor Hill, No. 23., 22d September 1855, page 22.

SIERRA LEONE.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Encl. in No. 3.

SIR, Horse Guards, November 17, 1855.

I AM directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to acquaint you that he has had before him copies of despatches from the Acting Governor of Sierra Leone relative to the expedition undertaken against the Moriah chiefs in the vicinity of that colony in the month of May last, which were communicated to him by the Secretary of State for the War Department, and his attention has been particularly drawn to the violation of the flag of truce by the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray's person, the prime minister, and detaining him as a prisoner of war, while the troops proceeded to the accomplishment of their purpose by the destruction of the town. . The fact is stated in the reports both of Commander Nicolas of Her Majesty's Ship "Teazer" and of Captain Fletcher of the 1st West India Regiment; it does not therefore admit of a doubt; and whether the immediate order for the arrest of this person was given by Commander Nicolas or Captain Fletcher, the latter must be held as having concurred in this most unjustifiable act.

I have therefore received the commands of the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to desire that you will immediately call upon Captain Fletcher for any explanation which he may think proper to offer, and if it should be found necessary in reference to what he may allege, though that would seem scarcely probable, to convene a court of inquiry to investigate any of the circumstances, you will be pleased to order one to assemble for the purpose.

The Field Marshal defers taking any further step in the matter till he may receive your report.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Colonel Hill, (Signed) C. YORKE.
Commanding the Troops, Sierra Leone.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a LETTER from Colonel MUNDY to H. MERIVALE Esq.

SIR, War Department, February 29, 1856.

WITH reference to my letter of the 27th November last, stating that an inquiry would be instituted into the conduct of Captain Fletcher of the 1st West India Regiment on the occasion of the expedition undertaken by the Governor of Sierra Leone against the Moriah chiefs, I am directed by Lord Panmure to transmit, to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, the copy of a letter from the Military Secretary to the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, enclosing the explanation which has now been received from Captain Fletcher.

18th Feb. 1856.

I am, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq. (Signed) G. C. MUNDY.
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Encl. in No. 4.

SIR, Horse Guards, 18th February 1856.

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th November last, transmitting several despatches which had been forwarded by the late Secretary of State for the Colonies to Lord Panmure relative to the expeditions undertaken in the month of May last by order of the Acting Governor of Sierra Leone against the Moriah chiefs, and drawing the attention of the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to the comments contained in the letter from the late Secretary of State affecting the conduct of Captain Fletcher of the 1st West India Regiment, I am directed by Viscount Hardinge to state that he lost no time in desiring Lieut. Colonel Hill commanding the troops at Sierra Leone to call upon Captain Fletcher for such explanation of his conduct in respect to the alleged violation of the flag of truce as he might be enabled to offer.

I have now the honour by Viscount Hardinge's desire to transmit, for the information of Lord Panmure, copy of a letter from Lieut. Colonel Hill, and of one from Captain Fletcher with its enclosures, explaining the circumstances under which he states Mahmadoo Touray was detained as a prisoner. It will be seen that Captain Fletcher states that Mahmadoo Touray did not make his appearance till the flag of truce had been hauled down, and Commander Nicolas was stepping into his boat to return on board his ship, and it also appears that Mr. Dillet one of the commissioners having been tried before the Council of Sierra Leone for his participation in the alleged capture of Mahmadoo Touray, while under the protection of the flag of truce, that gentleman was acquitted of the charge.

27th Dec. 1855.
20th Dec. 1855.

I have, &c.

Colonel Mundy, (Signed) C. YORKE.
&c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

SIERRA LEONE.

SIR, Sierra Leone 27th December 1855.

IN compliance with the order of his lordship the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, conveyed in your despatch of the 17th ultimo, I have now the honour to forward Captain Fletcher's explanation of the circumstances under which Mahmadoo Touray was taken a prisoner at Malageah.

20th Dec. 1855, Three Enclosures.

I have, &c.

To Major General Yorke, Military Secretary, Horse Guards, &c. &c &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL, Lieut.-Col. 2d West India Regiment, Commanding the Troops.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

SIR, Sierra Leone, December 20, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 18th December 1855, containing an extract from a letter received by his Excellency Lieut. Colonel Hill from the Commander in Chief, in which it is alleged that I participated in or was the immediate cause of the capture of Mahmadoo Touray, Prime Minister of the King of Malageah on the 22d May ultimo, when under the protection of a flag of truce, and calling upon me for any explanation I may have to offer upon that subject. That I was not guilty of such an act, and that Lord Hardinge has been misinformed, I trust by this letter to make apparent, which I beg may be submitted for the information of the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief.

When the "Teazer" anchored off the town of Malageah a shell was fired over the king's house, at which place a flag of truce was immediately hoisted. The three commissioners, Lieutenant Nicolas, Mr. Dillet, and myself, landed for the purpose of treating with any messenger of the king who might present himself; a white flag was also hoisted on board the "Teazer." No person received us, and no message was sent from the king. Some people were on the beach, and when we questioned them they gave conflicting statements of the intention of the king; some said he was ready to pay up, others that he was gone to another nation, some that he was in his house, and other answers equally unsatisfactory, till an hour passed away; in all this time I discovered the natives took advantage of and removed their property and cattle from the town.

The commissioners agreed to give them an hour to make their king come to terms.

After sending many messengers to the king, to tell him that within one hour of the time the flag was hoisted and the affair not settled we should fire again into the town, and having waited more than that time without coming to any terms, and no one to treat with us, Lieutenant Nicolas hailed the "Teazer," and ordered the flag to be hauled down, which was done.

As Lieutenant Nicolas was about to get into his boat "Mahmadoo Touray" made his appearance; we questioned him relative to the intentions of the king; he made several conflicting statements and evasive answers.

We then told him that he was a prisoner, but, in order to save bloodshed, we told him to send and tell the king he was a prisoner, as we imagined that plan would be more likely to bring the king to terms; we allowed him to send a chief who was with him a message that he was a prisoner, that after the present debt was paid we were ordered to enforce a fine of $200 upon him, the king. I also sent word, that upon my own responsibility I would let him off that fine if the affair was immediately settled. I pointed out that upon the hauling down of the flag of truce some canoes then on the beach, worth about $400, became our property, but that I would give them credit for the captured goods if they were disposed to pay the balance of the debt. The messenger went away, and as he did not return for some time, and I plainly saw that Mahmadoo Touray was only temporising with us, Lieutenant Nicolas and myself determined to carry out the instructions he had received from the Commodore, which were to the effect that the town was to be destroyed.

In corroboration I send a copy of a letter from a naval officer who saw Lieutenant Nicolas hail the "Teazer" and order the flag of truce to be hauled down before the appearance of Mahmadoo Touray, also a letter to that effect from Mr. Dillet.

I also would beg to add that Mr. Dillet, one of the commissioners, has been tried before the Council of Sierra Leone for his participation in the alleged capture of Mahmadoo Touray under the protection of a flag of truce; that gentleman has been acquitted, the fact of such capture not being proved; a copy of such acquittal enclosed herewith. Trusting that I may by this letter clear myself of an accusation of so grave a nature,

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. D. FLETCHER, Captain, 1st West India Regiment.

(A true copy.)

The Garrison Adjutant, &c. Sierra Leone.

(Signed) GEORGE G. BEAZLEY, Lieut., Garrison Adjutant.

SIERRA LEONE.

Sub-Enclosure 3.

SIR, Freetown, Sierra Leone, December 20, 1855.

IN reply to your inquiries relative to the circumstances under which Mahmadoo Touray, prime minister of the King of Malageah, had been taken prisoner at that place on a recent expedition against the Moriah chiefs, I beg to assure you that no violation whatever of the terms implied by a flag of truce took place by the seizure of that personage, who made appearance before the commissioners after Commander Nicolas had, in my hearing, hailed the "Teazer" from shore to haul down the flag of truce displayed from that ship; it had been previously ascertained that the natives had gutted their houses under the protection of the flag on shore, which was stated to have been hauled down as no one came to give an explanation as to the cause of its being hoisted.

I have much pleasure in enclosing for your information, a letter received by me from Mr. Taprill, R.N., late of Her Majesty's Ship "Teazer," upon the subject, and an extract from the minutes of the Council of this colony, before whom certain charges against me were investigated.

I have, &c.

Captain Fletcher, &c.
1st West India Regiment.

(Signed) J. E. DILLET,
Civil Service.

Sub-Enclosure 4.

"Government House,

"SIR, Sierra Leone, November 9, 1855.

"THE Board of Council having taken into consideration the charges preferred against you, and your defence to these charges as read at the meeting of yesterday, were of opinion—

"1st. That with respect to the first charge, of having taken Mahmadoo Touray prisoner under a flag of truce, you were entitled to an acquittal.

* * * * * *

"I have, &c.

"J. E. Dillet, Esq., &c.
Civil Service.

(Signed) REGINALD PALMER,
Private Secretary."

Sub-Enclosure 5.

SIR, Freetown, Sierra Leone, November 5, 1855.

IN reply to your letter of the 2d instant, I beg to state that there was no flag of truce flying on board Her Majesty's Ship "Teazer" when Mahmadoo Touray was taken prisoner at Malageah on the 22d May last, Commander Nicolas having hailed the ship from the shore to have it hauled down. I was on shore when Touray was taken prisoner.

I cannot speak positively about the flag on shore as I did not go to the king's yard.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES F. TAPRILL, R.N.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of a LETTER from H. MERIVALE Esq. to Colonel MUNDY.

SIR, Downing-street, March 17, 1856.

I HAVE received and laid before Mr. Secretary Labouchere your letter of the 29th ult., transmitting a copy of a letter from the Military Secretary to the Field-marshal Commanding in Chief, enclosing an explanation from Captain Fletcher of the 1st West India Regiment of his conduct in respect to the violation of a flag of truce in the late Malageah expedition; and I am to request that you will state to Lord Panmure that Mr. Labouchere is not aware whether the Field-marshal Commanding in Chief has thought it right to postpone his decision in this case until the statements forwarded in the Military Secretary's letter had been considered by Mr. Labouchere, but in that event he would merely observe that there can be no reasonable doubt that Mahmodoo Touray, the prime minister of King Bamba Mina Lahi, presented himself to the commissioners on the faith of the flag of truce hoisted on board Her Majesty's ship "Teazer" in answer to the one hoisted in the king's yard, and that he would not have made his appearance if he had expected to be made a prisoner.

Mr. Labouchere considers it comparatively unimportant at what moment the flag was hauled down; but Captain Fletcher's explanation on this point does

not seem to be consistent with the original statement which he made conjointly with the other commissioners, to the effect that after conversing with Mahmadoo Touray they allowed another half hour for the appearance of the king before commencing hostilities.

Mr. Labouchere requests that Lord Panmure will lay before the Field-marshal Commanding in Chief the enclosed extracts from the correspondence relative to the late Malageah expedition, containing the several statements which have been made in respect to the violation of the flag of truce; and I am to add that Captain Fletcher is in error in stating that Mr. Dillet was acquitted on this charge by the Council of Sierra Leone because the fact of the capture of Mahmodoo Touray under the protection of the flag of truce had not been proved, his acquittal having been founded on the opinion expressed by the Council that Captain Fletcher and Commander Nicolas, as military and naval officers, were mainly responsible for the act.

I am, &c.

Colonel Mundy. (Signed) H. MERIVALE.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Encl. in No. 5.

VIOLATION OF FLAG OF TRUCE IN THE MALAGEAH EXPEDITION.

Papers presented August 1855, page 19.

Report of Commissioners: Lieutenant Nicolas, Captain Fletcher, and Mr. Dillet.

WE proceeded to Malageah, and fired a rocket and shell over the town, when a flag of truce was immediately displayed from the king's flag staff. We landed under an escort of the troops, when several persons came to meet us at the water side. We then learned that Bamba Mina Lahi had left the town immediately on hoisting the flag.

We then sent messengers to the king, to say that we were prepared to treat with him, and would give him half an hour to meet us at the wharf. Other messengers were sent to the king when the time had elapsed, stating we were still prepared to receive him. Mahomodoo Touray, the chief's prime minister, came down, and told us, when questioned, that he could not say whether the king would come down, and declined to give us any information respecting where he was. We told him that we would treat with the king alone, and if another half hour elapsed without his coming we should fire the town. Mahomodoo Touray was detained a prisoner of war, and the time having elapsed, the ship opened fire on the town, &c.

King Bamba Mina Lahi's Statements to Mr. Mallard, Government Commissioner.

Do. do. Pages 27 and 29.

When the steamer came, Mahommadoo Toure was sent to show the goods to Mr. Dillet, but that Mr. Dillet said he knew nothing about them; it was too late now; that Mahommadoo Toure was then taken prisoner because he (the king) did not go to the water side.

On the arrival of the steamer at Malageah, Mahmodoo Touray and Sattan Lahi were on the wharf, having gone down to show Mr. Dillet the goods; that no notice was taken of the goods, but that Mr. Dillet, with whom was Lieutenant Nicolas, said he must see the king. Mahomodoo Touray said, "King no there; but there's the money for pay;" and also said, "We done send list to Davison; did he not give it you?" Mr. Dillet replied, that "Mr. Davison no give him any list, I know nothing about goods." Mr. Dillet then took out a watch, and held in his hand, saying, "I give you five minutes to fetch the king; if he does not come, I will break the town." Sattan Lahi had in the meantime gone to the king. The commander of the steamer then said to Mahmodoo Touray (who had been previously seized as a prisoner), "Four minutes are left; can't you find the king?" Mahmodoo Touray replied, "I am a prisoner."

Evidence of Mr. Bedbadere, a Resident of Malageah, taken by Government Commissioners.

Vide pages 18 and 19.

After having been about half an hour on shore, Captain Fletcher, Captain Nicolas, and Mr. Dillet inquired of witness if he had a watch. Witness lent Mr. Dillet his watch. The king's son was then at the bottom of witness' piazza. Mr. Dillet said to the king's son, "I give you an hour to bring the chiefs down to settle the affair." Fanna was sent to call the king, and he did not come back. In a short time a man by the name of Sumibah came down to where the commissioners were. They sent him to go and call the king to come down. About half an hour expired, and Sumibah did not come back. In five minutes after, Mahmadoo Touray, one of the principal chiefs in Malageah, made his appearance. The commissioners, Messrs. Fletcher, Nicolas, and Dillet, then inquired of Mahmadoo Touray why the white flag had been hoisted. They said they had allowed one hour; three quarters of an hour have already passed, and five minutes more remained for the king to come down. Mahmodoo Touray said he would try. The commissioners then said to him that would not do; he must say positively he would bring the king. This they said three times, and Mahmodoo Touray said he could do nothing. Captain Nicolas then said to him, "You are a prisoner," and gave him in custody of four men, telling them they were to treat

SIERRA LEONE.

him like a gentleman and an officer. When the hour which was first given had expired, the troops came on shore, and began to destroy the town, &c.

Evidence of Mr. Nathaniel Lyons (a Trader of Mellicouri) before Government Commissioners.

Page 20. After the troops had landed, Mr. Dillet asked for a watch, and said to witness and others who were standing by, that he would give them an hour to pay the money. Before the hour had expired, Sattan Lahi and Mahmodoo Touray made their appearance. Some of the officers began to question Mahmodoo Touray. They asked him where the king was. To which he gave evasive answers; and he was ordered, witness thinks by Captain Fletcher, to be taken prisoner. After Mahmodoo had been made prisoner he was asked other questions, which he refused to answer, saying, "Now that you have made me prisoner I will not say anything." After the hour had expired, another half hour was given, when the commissioners and their party began to make preparations for burning the town, &c.

Questions proposed by Mr. Dillet and answered by Captain Fletcher, and laid by the former before the Council of Sierra Leone.

Page 38. *Question.* Please state what circumstances induced Commander Nicolas to insist on seizure (of Mahmodoo Touray).

Answer.—It was the opinion of myself and Lieutenant Nicolas that if the king heard that Touray was a prisoner that the king would immediately come to terms, and be the means of preventing bloodshed.

Question.—Were you not informed that the flag of truce hoisted in the king's yard had been pulled down?

Answer.—I heard some of the people on the beach say that it was pulled down.

Question.—Was not the flag hauled down previously to the appearance of Mahmodoo Touray?

Answer.—In my opinion, most certainly. If I mistake not, Lieutenant Nicolas hailed the ship, and so ordered.

Question proposed by Mr. Dillet and answered by Lieutenant Kerr, 3d West India Regiment, and laid before the Council of Sierra Leone.

Page 39. *Question.*—Was it not hauled down by Serjeant Major Scanlan in your presence, because it was discovered that everything had been removed from the premises, and because no one came to afford any information as to the cause of its having been hoisted?

Answer.—Serjeant Scanlan hauled down the flag in the king's yard, saying at the time to me, that it was useless to let that "rag" to stay up there any longer. The houses in the king's yard were quite empty, literally "gutted," and no one came to explain anything.

Governor Hill's Remark to the Council.

Page 45. In support of those charges (against Mr. Dillet), I would refer you to the following written evidence, "1st., the report of the commissioners themselves, of which Mr. Dillet "was one, stating that Mahmodoo Touray had been seized after he had joined them under "the protection of a flag of truce."

The Colonial Secretary's Remark to the Council.

Page 46. Although it had not been clearly proved that no flag of truce was flying when Mahmodoo Touray was taken prisoner, yet, supposing that there was any blame attached to any party for having so taken Mahmodoo Touray prisoner, that party was not Mr. Dillet. The naval and military officers were the persons mostly responsible for that charge.

Chief Justice's Remark in Council.

Page 47. The first charge is, &c. (*reads the charge*).

From the report made and signed by Mr. Dillet and the other commissioners (*quotes the commissioners' report*), it would appear from such testimony that a flag of truce had been hoisted, the commissioners landed, and that Mahmadoo Touray, the king's prime minister, came down; some conversation ensued, and he was detained. He (Mahmodoo Touray) had come down to treat with them, and it was Mr. Dillet's bounden duty, even if the flag of truce had not been attended to by the other side, to have allowed him to retire before they proceeded to carry into effect their orders.

The late Sir W. Molesworth's Opinion.

Page 24. Having failed in finding the king, they detained Mahmodoo Touray as a prisoner of war, while they proceeded to the accomplishment of their purpose by the destruction of the town, unopposed by the natives.

This violation of a flag of truce, by the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray's person, was most unjustifiable.

In an expedition against uncivilized men for an alleged breach of their engagements, it was more especially essential that the laws of war, so far as they are understood and practised among men both civilized and uncivilized, should have been punctiliously observed towards them. SIERRA LEONE

Mr. Labouchere's Opinion.

The Council of Sierra Leone have acquitted Mr. Dillet of the charge of having been instrumental in the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray; but he should have protested against an act which he ought to have known to be inconsistent with the honour of the British name. Page 49.

It is of little consequence whether the flag of truce had been hauled down (as Mr. Dillet alleges) or not, at the time of the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray. As that person had volunteered his presence for the purpose of settling the matters in dispute, he ought, on the failure of that attempt, to have had full permission to depart.

Mr. Labouchere's further Opinion, as expressed to the Admiralty.

Mr. Labouchere cannot consider as satisfactory Commodore Adams' defence of Commander Nicolas' conduct in the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray, whether before or immediately after the flag of truce had been hauled down. Mr. Labouchere trusts that their lordships will concur with him in reprobating a proceeding which appears to him to have been very ill calculated to maintain amongst the natives that high character for fair-dealing which should, under all circumstances, be characteristic of Her Majesty's military and naval services. Pages 68 and 69

No. 6. No. 6.

Copy of a LETTER from Colonel Mundy to H. Merivale, Esq.

Sir, War Department, April 10, 1856.

I am directed by Lord Panmure to acquaint you that his Lordship having communicated to the Field-marshal Commanding in Chief copy of your letter of the 17th ultimo, containing Mr. Secretary Labouchere's remarks on Captain Fletcher's explanation of his conduct on the occasion of the Malageah expedition, his Lordship has received a reply, of which I am to transmit a copy for Mr. Labouchere's information.

I am, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq. (Signed) G. C. MUNDY.

Enclosure in No. 6. Encl. in No. 6.

Sir, Horse Guards, April 2, 1856.

Having laid before the Field-marshal Commanding in Chief your letter of the 25th ultimo, with its enclosure from the Colonial Department, containing Mr. Secretary Labouchere's remarks upon the explanation offered by Captain Fletcher of the 1st West India Regiment of his conduct in respect to the violation of a flag of truce in the late Malageah expedition, I am directed to express his Lordship's thanks for the extracts of the correspondence containing the several statements which have been made in reference to this transaction which Mr. Labouchere transmitted for his information.

The Field-marshal had suspended his decision on the case until Captain Fletcher's explanation had been considered by Mr. Labouchere; but, having now perused all the documents which have been forwarded to him, I am directed to state that entirely concurring, as he does, in Mr. Labouchere's opinion, he has expressed to Colonel Hill, commanding the troops at Sierra Leone, in very strong terms, his reprobation of such a proceeding as the detention of Mahmodoo Touray, an act which under the circumstances was certainly inconsistent with good faith; and he has desired Colonel Hill to acquaint Captain Fletcher that it is only from a belief that this unjustifiable act is to be attributed to a want of proper consideration on his part, and that he did not at the time perceive its true character, that the Field-marshal refrained from visiting his conduct in a far more serious manner.

I am also to acquaint you that a copy of the letter to Colonel Hill, expressing the Field-marshal's strong disapproval of what has occurred, will be sent to every station on the coast of Africa, in order to prevent the recurrence on any other occasion of a similar proceeding.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. Yorke.

SIERRA LEONE.

Correspondence with the Admiralty.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of a LETTER from R. B. OSBORNE, Esq., M. P., to H. MERIVALE, Esq.

SIR, Admiralty, August 10, 1855.

31st May 1855. I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you, for the information of Sir William Molesworth, copies of a letter from Commodore Adams, with its enclosures, reporting the proceedings of H.M.S. "Teazer," Lieutenant Nicolas, and the operations against King Bamba Mina Lahai in the Mellicourie River.

I am, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) R. B. OSBORNE.

Encl. in No. 1.

Enclosure in No. 1.

SIR, "Scourge," Sierra Leone, May 31, 1855.

I BEG you will be pleased to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on the 18th instant I received a requisition from H. E. the Acting Governor of this place, for a vessel to be placed at his disposal, to enable him to despatch his private secretary, Mr. Dillet, to the Mellicourie River, for the purpose of demanding from the Mooria chiefs payment of an undertaking given by them in December for outrages committed upon the property of British and French subjects in that river.

2. I accordingly gave directions to Lieutenant Nicolas, commanding the "Teazer," to receive that gentleman on board, and having put himself in communication with the Governor, to proceed to Mellicouri, with instructions that if Mr. Dillet should fail in his mission he was not to take any coercive measures, but return to Sierra Leone for further orders.

3. The "Teazer" sailed on the 19th, and proceeded to Malageah, the town in which the king of the river resides. After some trouble an interview was obtained with the king and chiefs, but it was unsuccessful in its results, as after a great deal of palaver they refused to come forward with more than $300, the entire sum due being $1,030. The

Sub-Encl. No. 1. particulars of this interview will appear in the accompanying copy of Lieutenant Nicolas's letter of proceedings.

Sub Encl. No. 2. The "Teazer" accordingly returned to Sierra Leone, and on Mr. Dillet making his report to the Governor I received from him another requisition, stating that as pacific measures had failed to induce king Bamba Mina Lahai to pay the amount due by him it was necessary that force should be used to compel him to do so, and requesting a passage for 150 troops to be conveyed to the river Mellicourie, for the purpose of destroying the town, and, if possible, of bringing the king himself to Sierra Leone.

Sub-Encl. No. 3. In compliance with his request, I gave Lieutenant Nicolas orders (copy of which I enclose) to receive the troops on board, and proceed to Malageah on this service. He, with Captain Fletcher, of the 1st West India Regiment, and Mr. Dillet before mentioned, were appointed by the government commissioners for the execution of this duty, and the detachment having been received on board, the "Teazer" sailed on the evening of the 21st, and arrived at Malageah on the morning of the 22d.

Sub-Encl. No. 4. By the accompanying letter their lordships will perceive that operations were commenced by firing a shell and a rocket over the residence of the king, when, a flag of truce being hoisted, the commissioners landed with a suitable guard to hear what proposals the king had to offer. After, however, repeated messages, to which the most evasive answers were returned, they found that there was no hope of a peaceable termination of the affair. They accordingly proceeded to force, and fired the town. The greater part of the place being in flames the troops returned to the boats, and whilst embarking a very smart fire was opened upon them from both sides of the landing place, which was promptly answered by the guns of the ship and the troops themselves, who succeeded in returning to the ship with the slight casualty of five men wounded.

I sincerely wish that I could stop here, and inform their lordships that this was the only casualty. I regret, however, to say, that on the "Teazer's" return to Benter (a town about 18 miles further down the river), the commissioners consulted together, and, impelled by too ardent a zeal for the prosecution of the service, and imagining that they had not carried out their instructions to the full extent whilst any of the town remained standing, they determined to return the following morning to Melageah, and fire that portion of it which had escaped the conflagration of the previous day.

It is with far deeper regret that I have to acquaint their lordships that the proceedings on the 23d (though the object in view was obtained) were attended with so great a loss. It appears, that on anchoring off the town, a few shot and shell were fired into the bushes and the ruins of the town, and no natives appearing the troops were landed without any accident; but scarcely had the advanced party commenced to move when a most murderous fire was opened upon them on all sides from men in ambush, from the effects of which they suffered most severely; Lieutenant Nicolas was shot through both thighs, Mr. Andrews, the Assistant Paymaster of the "Teazer," and Lieutenant Wylie of the 1st West India Regiment, were killed on the spot; Lieutenant Vincent of the 2d West India Regiment was also most severely wounded, and Mr. Firth of the Commissariat Department made prisoner, and was, I fear, barbarously murdered; in fact, out of a force of upwards of 200 men, nearly two thirds were either killed, wounded, or made prisoners.

It now becomes my painful duty to offer some remarks upon the disastrous result of this expedition, not that I would for one moment seek to detract from or cast a suspicion on the officers and men who were employed upon it, on the contrary, I cannot speak in too high terms of the gallantry and steadiness which they displayed under the attack of the overwhelming force which they had to contend against; but I feel it due to myself to express to their lordships that I conceive Lieutenant Nicolas to have exceeded my orders in having risked his vessel by bringing her into so narrow a creek; I moreover repeatedly cautioned him (previously to his departure) against exposing his ship's company to the fire which might be expected from the mangrove bushes. Again, I consider that the determination which the commissioners arrived at to return on the second day was ill judged, and I regret that Lieutenant Nicolas should have allowed himself to have been over persuaded by the other commissioners; at the same time, in justice both to him and them, I must state my firm conviction that they were actuated by an over zeal for the honour of their country, which I hope will serve in extenuation of their decision.

The wounds received by Lieutenant Nicolas are so severe that the medical officers, whom I requested to examine him, consider his return to England necessary.

His conduct on the second day is worthy of all praise, and the coolness and intrepidity he evinced in a moment of the greatest danger was eminently conspicuous.

Though severely wounded, he refused medical assistance until others in greater danger had been attended to; and it has been told me, that after his wounds had been dressed he refused to go below, but remained lying on the deck, and carried on the duties of the ship as well as his disabled position would allow him to do. I sincerely hope their lordships will be pleased to take these circumstances into consideration, and that they may be induced to confer such reward as they may deem proper upon Lieutenant Nicolas for his gallantry upon this occasion.

It affords me much pleasure to bring before their lordships notice the admirable behaviour of all the officers and men employed in this expedition, and to express my gratification at the high encomium passed by Lieutenant Nicolas upon his ship's company.

I have, &c.

The Secretary to the Admiralty. (Signed) JOHN ADAMS,
&c. &c. &c. Commodore 2d Class.

Sub-Enclosure No. 1.

H.M. Screw Schooner "Teazer,"
SIR, Sierra Leone, May 21, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival at this port, and regret to state that the King of Malagea has to a certain extent refused payment of the money demanded by his Excellency the Acting Governor.

In pursuance of your orders, I placed myself in communication with Mr. Dougan, and acted jointly throughout as a commissioner with Mr. Dillet his private secretary.

After leaving Sierra Leone, on Saturday last, I proceeded direct to Binter, at the entrance of the Mellacorie River, and anchored for the night, the pilot declining to proceed further until the morning.

At daylight weighed, and at 9 A.M. anchored in front of the town of Malagea; at 10 A.M. visited the king. On inquiring he replied, "I know nothing of the promise of the money; I was sick when I signed the paper; Bore Lahai, the chieftain of Mellacorie Town, is aware of this."

We declined having anything to do with Bore Lahai, and desired he would let us know whether he acknowledged the debt or not, also the sum he was prepared to pay before 8 A.M. the following day (Monday). To the former question he replied "yes," to the latter "he must talk to his chiefs," and it was only on our rising to leave, after stating our next visit would be a hostile one, that he requested us to wait, and he would try what amount in produce could be sent on board the "Teazer" by the time granted. As he requested, we gave him an hour, when he told us, $300 should be ready. I would not promise to receive this until he would let us know when he would be prepared with the remainder. He appeared astonished at our asking for the residue, and told us he could not say when, nor would he make a promise, or fix a day. We then told him $500 we must have before 8 A.M., then I would proceed to Bentie and return for the balance, $530. He replied, "I cannot give more." We reminded him his country was rich, and again that the money was

SIERRA LEONE.

over-due two months, and should it be necessary to send a force to act against him the responsibility would rest with him, and him alone, as he had made a promise to the Governor and broken it. He answered, "I cannot give any more." We then decided on leaving, granting half an hour for his principal chief with a reply, if favourable. At the expiration of one hour I fired a gun unshotted to remind him of the time. The tide not suiting, I waited for two hours more; when on the point of departure, three English and three French traders came on board, corroborating our former suspicions that he, the king, was prepared with 200 to 300 $, but no larger sum he told them would be paid.

As we deemed any further detention unnecessary, I weighed at 8 P.M. last evening, anchored at Bentee at 9.30 P.M., the pilot refusing to go over the bar against tide.

Weighed this morning (Monday) at daylight, for the purpose of making you acquainted with all despatch of my proceedings, should you deem it necessary to use coercive measures, which the Governor directed me to inform the king would be taken against him in case of refusal.

I have, &c.

Commodore J. Adams,
Commander in Chief.

(Signed) B. G. W. NICOLAS,
Lieut. and Commander.

Sub-Enclosure No. 2.

SIR, Government House, Sierra Leone, May 21, 1855.

PACIFIC measures having failed to induce King Bamba Mina Lahai and the Mooria chiefs to pay the amount due by them, to be paid in March last, for the losses sustained by the merchants and traders in the Mellicourie river, it is now necessary that coercive measures should be taken against them; and I shall be prepared to embark 150 officers and men on board Her Majesty's steam vessel "Teazer" for the purpose of returning to Malageah, and chastising these chiefs, and if possible to bring the king himself down here. The only way of punishing these chiefs effectually is to destroy their towns. The troops will be prepared to embark on board at 6 o'clock this afternoon.

I have, &c.

Commodore Adams,
Commander in chief.

(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

N.B.—My private secretary will accompany the expedition as the civil commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure No. 3.

By John Adams, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

PACIFIC measures having failed to induce King Bamba Moria Lahai and the Mooriah chiefs to pay the amount due by them in March last, in fulfilment of the agreement to that effect signed by them in December 1854, his Excellency the Acting Governor of this place has applied to me for means to employ coercive measures to enforce compliance with the stipulations of their agreement.

You are therefore to receive on board 150 troops, and proceed in Her Majesty's steam vessel under your command, with as little delay as possible, to Malagia in the Mellicourie river, and open fire upon the town, and destroy it, endeavouring, if possible, to bring the king himself to Sierra Leone.

You will be most careful not to expose your vessel to the fire of musketry if it can be possibly avoided; and as the object in view is to chastise the native chiefs and destroy their village without loss on your part, that end will most easily be obtained by firing upon them with your guns at a distance.

You will also be most cautious that in your proceedings you do not injure or destroy any French property or persons; on the contrary, you will consider their cause the same as our own, and using due forethought and consideration, endeavour to obtain for them the same justice you would for a subject of our own country.

The private secretary of his Excellency the Governor will accompany this expedition as civil commissioner, and you will (as before directed) pay every due attention to his suggestions or requisitions on Her Majesty's service, provided such do not militate against your judgment or your duty.

Should you succeed in bringing the king to Sierra Leone you will deliver him over to his Excellency the Governor for his disposal.

You will return to Sierra Leone so soon as this service shall be completed, where you will find instructions for your further proceedings.

Given under my hand, on board the "Scourge" at Sierra Leone, this 21st May 1855.

To

(Signed) JOHN ADAMS.

Beville G. W. Nicolas, Esq.
Lieut.-Commander H.M.S.V. "Teazer."

By command of the Commodore,
(Signed) JAMES C. PINHORN,
Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure No. 4.

SIR, H.M.S.V. "Teazer," Sierra Leone, May 24, 1855.

IN obedience to the orders which I received from you on the 21st instant, I embarked 150 rank and file of the 1st and 3d West India Regiments, under the command of Captain R. D. Fletcher, 1st West India Regiment, and at 8 p.m. proceeded in Her Majesty's steam vessel under my command to the Mellicourie river.

Early on the morning of the 22d I arrived off the mouth of the river, but there being an ebb tide, and the pilot consequently declining to take the ship further up, I was compelled to anchor for a few hours.

I proceeded up the river at 5 a.m., but on approaching the town of Malageah I found it was totally impossible to carry out your instructions (viz. the destruction of the town) without taking my vessel abreast of it.

I therefore consulted with Captain Fletcher and Mr. Dillet (who with myself had been appointed commissioners by his Excellency the Acting Governor), wishing to avail myself of their superior knowledge of the place, and having done so, it was determined to anchor the "Teazer" immediately abreast of Malageah.

I commenced operations at 9 a.m. by firing a shell and a rocket over the residence of the king, upon which a flag of truce was hoisted, and immediately answered by us.

The other commissioners and myself then landed, with a suitable guard, to hear what terms the king had to propose, but no person appearing we proceeded to the king's house, which we found deserted. In a short time the king's prime minister made his appearance, and promised that the king should be forthcoming in a few minutes. After repeated messages and most unsatisfactory replies, and an hour and a half having elapsed, we deemed it necessary to commence the destruction of the town at once, at the same time detaining the prime minister. I then repaired on board my ship, and opened fire upon the place. The troops having been disembarked, then advanced under cover of our guns, and proceeded to burn the houses, a rocket party from the "Teazer" being sent to their aid. At noon, the greater portion of the town being in flames, it became necessary, on account of the extreme heat, to recall the troops. On their preparing to embark a very brisk fire was opened upon them from both sides of the landing place, and promptly replied to by the ship and troops, who were re-embarked with the slight casualty of five wounded.

On weighing to proceed down the river, the wind having changed, it was discovered that a large portion of the west end of the town had escaped destruction, and considering that the service was not entirely carried out according to our instructions, we, the commissioners, decided upon anchoring at Bantee Point for the night, and to return the next morning, and reduce the whole to ruins.

Accordingly, as soon as the tide would allow, we weighed, on the morning of the 23d, and anchoring before Malageah at 10·30, commenced shelling it, occasionally throwing grape and canister into the bushes.

After the lapse of half an hour, seeing no enemy whatever, we decided upon re-landing under cover of the ship's guns, which was effected without casualty in about a quarter of an hour.

I then landed and proceeded with Mr. Dillet to the front, for the purpose of pointing out to the advance guard the houses which we wished to be set on fire. On approaching the crest of a hill a most deadly fire was opened upon us by some 200 or 300 men. Those immediately in advance (about five in number) were killed on the spot, the serjeant-major being one of them, and Mr. Dillet and myself were both wounded. The moment this fire opened I considered it necessary to send for the rest of the troops; I accordingly despatched Mr. Andrews, the Assistant Paymaster of the "Teazer," (who had volunteered his services to accompany me on shore) with a request to Captain Fletcher to advance to my assistance; I lament to say that he was scarcely out of my sight before he fell wounded through the head and heart. Captain Fletcher, however, without waiting for a request from me, already moved on with the main body to my succour. During the whole of this time a steady and well directed fire was kept up from the ship.

On my return on board I weighed, and by the aid of steam maintained the ship in her position until the last of the boats which were employed in embarking the forces had left the shore. Much to my mortification it was reported to me (while my wounds were being dressed) that she had swamped with some forty soldiers in her. It appears that she was completely riddled with bullets, which was the immediate cause of her sinking. A flag of truce was instantly hoisted in the hope that the enemy might be induced to do the same and spare the men who were struggling in the water. Unhappily, however, they continued their fire; so, after waiting a few minutes, I directed the flag to be hauled down and the guns to be again brought to bear against them.

Finding from the king's minister that the wounded and prisoners would be respected if I withdrew my ship, I proceeded slowly down the river for about three miles (under a galling fire from the banks) when the enemy's fire ceased; I then proceeded at full speed to Bentee Point for the purpose of dispatching the prime minister for the wounded and prisoners.

I have omitted to state that on the 22d we made prisoners of six of the enemy, two of whom were relatives of the king, whom, with the concordance of the commissioners, I offered to release (together with the minister) for the prisoners and wounded on our side; the minister promised that they should be at Bentee Point at eight o'clock this morning.

SIERRA LEONE.

As the ship was crowded with troops and her decks filled with wounded (many of whom were serious cases) I deemed it my duty to proceed without loss of time to join you at Sierra Leone, considering my further detention unnecessary as the town was most effectually and completely destroyed; Mr. Davidson having offered every assistance in looking after the prisoners and wounded on their arrival at Bentee Point, and I have left my assistant surgeons to make every preparation for their reception. The prisoners taken on the 22d still remain on board.

In the prosecution of this service I have received the most cordial co-operation and assistance from Captain Fletcher, in command of the troops, who was always most happy to attend to any of my wishes, and whose suggestions were of the greatest use to me.

To Mr. Dillet my sincere thanks are also due, acting as he did invariably with the greatest promptitude and zeal.

It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony of the gallantry displayed by both officers and men of the 1st and 3rd West India Regiments, who under a most galling fire evinced remarkable steadiness and courage; but, without detracting in the least from any of the rest, I deem it due to Mr. M. Vincent, Lieutenant 2d West India Regiment, to notice his great coolness and intrepidity on this occasion when in the command of the advancing party.

I am also under great obligation to Staff Assistant Surgeon Bradshaw for his unremitting care and attention to the wounded of the "Teazer," after the departure of my assistant surgeon.

It is with the greatest pain that I have to report to you that the wound received by Mr. J. G. D. Andrews, Assistant Paymaster, resulted in his death. In him the service has lost a most zealous and faithful servant, whilst I am deprived of a most valuable officer.

When all distinguished themselves equally it would be difficult to particularize individual acts of gallantry; but I must in justice to that officer bring before your notice the praiseworthy and noble efforts of Mr. Henry Searle, Acting Boatswain, 3d Class, who defended the ship and fought her guns during my absence.

Neither can I omit to state the admirable conduct of the whole of my ship's company, many of whom (though only convalescent and still on the sick list) persisted in working and remaining at their guns.

I enclose a return of "Teazer's" wounded and missing, who were employed upon this occasion, the former of whom I am happy to say are doing well, the latter I fear were drowned when the cutter was swamped.

The loss on the part of the enemy is reported to be enormous, and which I have every reason to believe is true, as the grape and canister made fearful lanes in their ranks, and their shrieks were most dreadful to hear.

It is with the deepest regret that I have to state that this service has been attended with so great a loss, as of the whole force employed (about 200) nearly one half have been killed, wounded, or made prisoners. However, as the object of the expedition has been fully attained, I sincerely hope that my proceedings will meet with your approbation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. G. Wyndham Nicolas,
Lieut.-Commander.

Return of Sick and Wounded.

Wednesday, May 23, 1855.

Dead.

Mr. Andrews,—Assistant Paymaster.

Wounded.

Lieut.-Commander Nicolas,—Severely.
John Hill, Ordinary,—Dangerously.
Joseph Cheer, Boy,—Slightly.

Missing.

Chas. Shepperd, Ordinary,—Supposed drowned.
John Davis, A.B.,—ditto.

(Signed) Gordon Jackson,
Assistant Surgeon in Charge.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a LETTER from J. BALL, Esq., M.P. to the Secretary to the ADMIRALTY.

SIR, Downing Street, October 19, 1855.

WITH reference to your Letter of the 10th August, forwarding copies of a letter from Commodore Adams with its inclosures relative to the recent expedition against the Moriah chiefs in the vicinity of Sierra Leone, I am directed by Secretary Sir William Molesworth to transmit to you for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of the papers presented to Parliament on this subject, together with copies of further Despatches received from the Acting Governor of Sierra Leone since these papers were presented.

Papers presented August 1855.

I am also to enclose extracts of a despatch* which Sir William Molesworth has addressed to Governor Hill in answer to the several despatches relative to the expedition undertaken against the Moriah chiefs, and I am to request that you will bring under their lordships notice the views which Sir William Molesworth has been compelled to express with reference to the military conduct of the expedition and the violation of the flag of truce which was committed.

No. 132. 31st July 1855. page .

No. 134. 2d August 1855. page .

I have, &c.

The Secretary to the Admiralty. (Signed) J. BALL.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a LETTER from T. PHINN, Esq. to J. BALL, Esq., M.P.

SIR, Admiralty, February 13, 1856.

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th of October last, and its enclosures, relative to the proceedings of Her Majesty's sloop "Teazer" in connexion with the expeditions against the Moriah chiefs, and the views entertained by the late Sir William Molesworth as regards the conduct of the naval part of the expedition, I am commanded by their lordships to transmit to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, a copy of a letter from Commodore Adams in vindication of the conduct of the officers employed on this occasion.

No. 6. 10th Jan. 1856.

I am, &c.

John Ball, Esquire, Colonial Office. (Signed) THOS. PHINN.

(No. 6.) Enclosure in No. 3.

Encl. in No. 3.

SIR, "Scourge," Sierra Leone, January 10, 1856.

IN reply to your letter No. 226 of the 22d November last, enclosing for my consideration certain documents relative to the expedition to Malageah in May 1855, and directing me to report my opinion thereon, also, to state what steps were taken to supply the "Teazer" with ordnance stores and boats to carry out the object of the expedition, I beg to submit, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the following remarks on the subject.

With reference to the ordnance stores supplied, I have to state that the "Teazer" had her full allowance, and I sent the gunner of this ship personally to superintend its being put on board; moreover when I offered to complete her from the "Scourge" the Acting Governor told me it was unnecessary, as everything should be supplied from the Ordnance Department.

In addition to her own boats, the "Teazer" had a cutter from this ship in exchange for a four oared gig. These I considered quite sufficient, inasmuch as the vessel being within pistol shot of the shore, the embarkation and disembarkation of the troops could have been covered by her guns.

I perfectly agree with Lieut. Nicolas in his opinion that the force was insufficient, but the Acting Governor, from the result of the former expedition in December 1854, was aware that I had no other vessel at my disposal capable from her draught of water of entering the river. The "Teazer" would not have accommodated more than 150 troops.

I therefore considered that it rested with Mr. Dougan to postpone the expedition if he did not think the force adequate.

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* Extracts of Sir W. Molesworth's Despatch to Governor Hill, No. 23, 22d September 1855 page 22.

SIERRA LEONE.

The late Sir William Molesworth labours under a mis-impression with regard to the "Teazer's" return on the second day unprovided with ammunition, she had nearly the whole of her grape, canister, and other ordnance stores on board, as scarcely any was expended on the first day. I do not, therefore, consider that Lieutenant Nicolas has laid himself open to the severe censure cast upon him of being "guilty of the grave error" of acceding to a rash measure when the expedition was evidently not in a position to undertake any further active operations.

I am of opinion that Lieutenant Nicolas' explanation of the capsizing of the cutter is perfectly satisfactory; his despatch to me describing her to have been "riddled with bullets" was written days before the boat was delivered up by the Mooriah chiefs, and he could not therefore be aware of the actual state of the boat, and being wounded himself could only be guided by what he heard from others.

Had I been aware that it was the intention of the Acting Governor to appoint Lieutenant Nicolas one of the commissioners I should have objected to such a step, as I consider the command of his ship ought to have engrossed his whole attention; and I cannot help thinking that had he remained on board the result of the expedition would not have been so disastrous, as he would then have personally superintended the covering of the landing of the troops by the "Teazer's" fire.

I can offer no opinion relative to the violation of the flag of truce, not being on the spot; but I understand both from Lieutenant Nicolas and Captain Fletcher that the flag was hauled down before Mahmodoo Touray was detained as prisoner.

In conclusion, I trust I may be permitted to offer a remark upon the injudicious selection of the Acting Governor in appointing Mr. Dillet a commissioner. He is a coloured gentleman holding the position of fourth clerk in the colonial secretary's office as also that of postmaster; but a few years ago was a merchant's clerk collecting ground nuts in the Mellacorie River. He was consequently well known to the Mooriah chiefs, and they refused to treat with a person in so inferior a position; and I have heard the opinion often expressed at this place that had a more responsible person or a respectable merchant been selected, the result of the expedition would have been satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN ADAMS,
Commodore 2d Class.

R. Bernal Osborne, Esq., M.P.,
Secretary of the Admiralty.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a LETTER from H. MERIVALE, Esq. to the SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY.

SIR, Downing Street, March 7, 1856.

I HAVE received and laid before Mr. Secretary Labouchere your letter of the 13th instant, forwarding a copy of a letter from Commodore Adams, in vindication of the conduct of the naval officers employed in the late expedition against the Moriah chiefs on the West Coast of Africa.

Commodore Adams states that the late Sir W. Molesworth laboured under a misapprehension with regard to H.M.S. "Teazer" returning on the second day unprovided with ammunition, as she had nearly the whole of her grape, canister, and other ordnance stores on board, scarcely any of them having been expended on the first day.

I am to observe that the first observations of Sir W. Molesworth referred to by Commodore Adams were founded on the fact that the "Teazer" was supplied with signal rockets only, and had no Congreve rockets on board. It is possible that the latter do not form a portion of the "Ordnance Stores" supplied to steamers on the West Coast of Africa, but, with a view to offensive operations against buildings on shore, it would seem advisable that some projectiles of that character should be supplied.

The statement with regard to the deficiency of ammunition was supported by a reference which Sir W. Molesworth made to Captain Fletcher's report, in which he stated that when the ship was proceeding slowly down the river, the banks of which were lined with armed men, "the whole of the shell, grape, and canister had been expended;" and Commander Nicolas also states that his ship proceeded slowly down the river, for about three miles, under a galling fire from the banks.

Mr. Labouchere cannot consider as satisfactory Commodore Adams' defence of Commander Nicolas' conduct in the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray, whether before or immediately after the flag of truce had been hauled down.

Mr. Labouchere trusts that their Lordships will concur with him in reprobating a proceeding which appears to him to have been very ill calculated to

maintain among the natives that high character for fair dealing which should, under all circumstances, be distinctive of Her Majesty's military and naval services.

Mr. Labouchere concurs in the opinion expressed by Commodore Adams that Commander Nicolas should not have been appointed one of the commissioners, as a naval officer should not at any time be charged with duties which are likely to induce him to leave his ship when on active service.

I am, &c.

The Secretary to the Admiralty. (Signed) H. MERIVALE.

No. 5.

Copy of a LETTER from T. Phinn, Esq. to H. Merivale, Esq.

Sir, Admiralty, April 28, 1856.

Having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 7th of last month, conveying the opinion of Mr. Secretary Labouchere on various points connected with the late expedition against the Moriah chiefs on the West Coast of Africa, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that they concur in opinion with Mr. Secretary Labouchere, that the seizure of Mahmodoo Touray, whether before or immediately after the flag of truce was hauled down, was a proceeding which the officers on the spot were not justified in taking. It appears to my Lords that the person referred to voluntarily placed himself within the power of Lieutenant Nicolas and the other officers, in entire reliance on the safe conduct to which he believed himself entitled by the hoisting of the flag of truce, and my Lords cannot reconcile the act in question with those principles of scrupulous fair-dealing which it has ever been their anxious care to inculcate in the officers of Her Majesty's naval service, and which have hitherto been carefully observed by them in dealing with flags of truce.

My Lords agree with Mr. Labouchere in reprobating a proceeding so ill calculated to maintain among the natives that high character for fair-dealing which should, under all circumstances, be characteristic of Her Majesty's military and naval services, and they have expressed themselves in the above sense to Commodore Adams.

I am, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq. (Signed) THOS. PHINN.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 25 July 1856;—*for*,

"COPIES of WARRANT appointing *James Coleman Fitzpatrick*, Esquire, Judicial Assessor or Assistant to the Native Sovereigns or Chiefs in the Countries adjacent to Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast:"

"Of the INSTRUCTIONS, if any, addressed from the Colonial Office to the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick* at the time of his Appointment:"

"Of any CORRESPONDENCE between the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick*, Governor *Hill*, *Brodie Cruickshank*, Esquire, and the Duke of *Newcastle*, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to the Administration by the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick* of the Estates of Persons dying Unrepresented on the *Gold Coast*, and also relative to the Return of the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick* to *England* in November 1853:"

"Of CORRESPONDENCE which has passed between the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick*, and the Colonial Office, relative to such Unrepresented Estates, since the Return of the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick* in November 1853:"

"And, of the WARRANT appointing *Henry Connor*, Esquire, Judicial Assessor, on the Resignation of the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick*, and of any Instructions accompanying such Appointment; and also, Copy of any Warrant subsequently issued to him varying or altering his previous Appointment."

Colonial Office,
29 July 1856.

H. LABOUCHERE.

(*Mr. Pigott.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*,
29 *July* 1856.

SCHEDULE.

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COPIES of WARRANT appointing *James Coleman Fitzpatrick*, Esq., Judicial Assessor or Assistant to the Native Sovereigns or Chiefs in the Countries adjacent to Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the *Gold Coast*: Of the INSTRUCTIONS, if any, addressed from the Colonial Office to the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick* at the time of his Appointment: Of any CORRESPONDENCE between the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick*, Governor *Hill*, *Brodie Cruickshank*, Esq., and the Duke of *Newcastle*, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to the Administration by the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick* of the Estates of Persons dying Unrepresented on the *Gold Coast*, and also relative to the Return of the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick* to *England* in November 1853: Of CORRESPONDENCE which has passed between the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick* and the Colonial Office relative to such Unrepresented Estates, since the Return of the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick* in November 1853: And, of the WARRANT appointing *Henry Connor*, Esq., Judicial Assessor, on the Resignation of the said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick*, and of any Instructions accompanying such Appointment; and also, Copy of any Warrant subsequently issued to him varying or altering his previous Appointment.

— No. 1. —

No. 1.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to be Judicial Assessor on the Gold Coast.

COPY of WARRANT appointing *James Coleman Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to be Judicial Assessor or Assistant to the Native Sovereigns and Chiefs within the Countries adjacent to Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the *Gold Coast*.

V. R.

TRUSTY and well-beloved, We greet you well. Whereas by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the seventh year of Our reign, intituled, "An Act to remove Doubts as to the exercise of Power and Jurisdiction by Her Majesty within divers Countries and Places out of Her Majesty's Dominions, and to render the same more effectual," it was enacted, that it was and should be lawful for Us to hold, exercise, and enjoy any power or jurisdiction which We then had, or might at any time thereafter have, within any country or place out of Our dominions, in the same and as ample a manner as if We had acquired such power or jurisdiction by the cession or conquest of territory: And whereas at the time of passing of the said Act We had, and still have, by usage and sufferance, or by one or other of these, or by other lawful means, power and jurisdiction, within divers countries and places out of, but adjacent to, Our forts and settlements on the Gold Coast: Now know you, that We, reposing especial trust and confidence in the loyalty, integrity, and ability of Our trusty and well-beloved James Coleman Fitzpatrick, Esq., have thought fit hereby to authorise and require you forthwith to cause letters patent to be passed under the public seal of our said forts and settlements, constituting and appointing the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick to be assessor or assistant to the native sovereigns and chiefs within the countries aforesaid, to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office and place during Our pleasure, with all the rights, profits, privileges, and advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining. And for so doing this shall be your warrant.

Given at Our Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, this 17th day of December 1847, in the 11th year of our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
(signed) *Grey.*

Superscribed:

To Our trusty and well-beloved Norman Macdonald, Esq., Our Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over Our Colony of Sierra Leone and its Dependencies, or in his absence to Our Lieutenant-governor, or the Officer administering the Government of Our Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast.

— No. 2. —

No. 2. Duke of Newcastle to Governor Hill.

(No. 34.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Duke of *Newcastle* to Governor *Hill*.

Sir, Downing-street, 22 June 1853.

REPRESENTATIONS which have been recently received at this office, respecting the disposal of unrepresented estates in Her Majesty's possessions on the Gold Coast, induce me to recall to your attention Lord Grey's Despatch * of the 6th February 1850, recommending the passing of an Ordinance to effect this purpose in a more regular manner than appears at present to be the case. It is a subject which was regarded by your predecessor, Sir W. Winniett, and by Mr. Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor, as of pressing importance, and I am not aware that any steps have as yet been taken to carry into execution what was then proposed.

* (*See* Note.)

I have, &c.
(signed) *Newcastle*.

— No. 3. —

No. 3. Acting Governor Fitzpatrick to the Duke of Newcastle, 2 August 1853.

(No. 67.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor *Fitzpatrick* to the Duke of *Newcastle*.

Cape Coast Castle, 2 August 1853.
(Received, 10 September 1853.)

My Lord Duke, (Answered, No. 56, 11 October 1853, page 38.)

I HAVE the honour to forward a communication which Mr. Cruickshank, agent for Messrs. Forster & Smith, merchants, of London, has addressed to your Grace respecting my having taken charge of and administered the estate of the late Mr. Clouston.

26 July 1853. Page 4.

Mr. Cruickshank alleges that I had neither authority nor justification for doing so, and that I have been guilty of maladministration of the estate, for which he will hold me legally responsible, and he has given me a formal notice to this effect (Enclosure, No. 2); notwithstanding which, he appeals to your Grace, with an immense mass of statements, suppositions, and inferences, which it is impossible to contradict and disprove in detail within the short limit he has allowed me.

Enclosure 1. Protest, dated 25 July 1853. Page 14.

The following, I beg to inform your Grace, are the circumstances under which this estate came into my care.

Mr. Clouston died on the morning of the 31st March, largely indebted to Messrs. Forster & Smith, and the Rev. Mr. Freeman having been the first person who became aware of the melancholy event, on calling at Mr. Clouston's house, locked up his stores, office, &c., and came into the Fort, where he delivered the key to me, in the presence of his Excellency Major Hill.

On the same day I searched Mr. Clouston's papers, and found a will appointing three executors, one of whom only, Mr. Hervey, was then on the Gold Coast; I immediately communicated with that gentleman, who proved Mr. Clouston's will on the 12th of April, and on the same day I handed over all the keys and property to him. On the next day I accompanied the Governor to the camp at Dunquah, and on my return on the 19th I was shocked to hear that Mr. Hervey had died the day before. Mr. Hervey died intestate, leaving no representative whatsoever on the Gold Coast. On the day of his death, April 18th, Mr. Sinclair, a young man who acted as clerk to him, applied to Captain M'Court, who acted in my absence as assistant judicial assessor, to take possession of this property (Enclosure 2), and as I arrived on the next day, he handed over to me Mr. Hervey's and Mr. Clouston's property, which I took charge of and administered, with the sanction and approval of the Governor. I never even applied to have this done; indeed it was virtually done through Captain M'Court before I could be aware of Mr. Hervey's death.

Enclosure 2. Captain M'Court's Certificate, 30 July 1853. Page 15.

I think

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* (No. 3.)

Sir, Downing-street, 6 February 1850.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Fitzpatrick's despatch, No. 61, of the 1st September, relative to the delay which has occurred in the passing of an Ordinance by the Legislature of Sierra Leone for the administration of unrepresented estates on the Gold Coast.

When a Legislative Council has been established in the British Settlements on the Gold Coast, under the powers newly granted by Her Majesty, you will be enabled to propose to the Council the passing of an Ordinance to carry that object into effect.

Governor Sir William Winniett, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey*.

I think I have thus proved to your Grace that the rude phrases of "self-constituted receiver of unrepresented estates"—"took on himself, &c.," which Messrs. Forster & Smith's agent makes use of, do not apply to me in this case.

Mr. Cruickshank states that I sent him the Sierra Leone Ordinance as my authority, and said it was such; but in this he is mistaken, and misinformed your Grace. I never did, nor could, assume that Ordinance as an authority, for I was well aware that it did not apply to the Gold Coast; therefore Mr. Cruickshank's observations on it need not be noticed. I have the honour to inform your Grace that I administered these unrepresented estates and others since my arrival on the Gold Coast in 1848, for the following reasons:

First. I was expected and required to do so; in proof of which I beg leave to refer your Grace to Enclosures Nos.*

* (*Note.*—Left bla in original Despat Refers, no doubt, to E closures 3, 4, 5 and

Secondly. Because my doing so was sanctioned, and therefore authorised, by the native authorities in the country where the property was situated, and required by the officer representing my own Sovereign and Government; and thirdly, because what I was thus required to do was not incompatible either with the principles of morality or English law. This I conceive to be the authority for every act which I perform here in my official capacity; and I beg leave to assure your Grace that there are some of them of much more importance than administering an estate of a few thousand pounds value. Being thus called upon to do a certain duty, by the Governor under whom I served (as will be shown by Enclosure 5),* as well as by private individuals, I naturally inquired about it, and I was then informed by Governor Winniett that he had recommended the formal sanction, by legislative enactment, and the improvement of a system which had grown up from necessity, and that until the Ordinance affecting that object arrived, I had better act on the principles of this suggestion. I also took leave to call the attention of Earl Grey to that recommendation in the year 1849, and his Lordship was pleased to direct that an Ordinance should be passed effecting this object on the establishment of a Legislative Council for these settlements. Various circumstances, the last of which was the Ashantee disturbances, have prevented this being done as yet; but I submit to your Grace that it does not follow from that recommendation, and the delay in passing an Ordinance, that the present existing system, unimproved and unrecognised by an Ordinance, is illegal, no more than it followed from the passing of the Foreign Jurisdiction Act that all acts done in this country before the passing of that Act were illegal. The present system is this:

Enclosures 4 and dated 27 July and 1 August. Pages 15 and 16

Enclosure 5.

* (*Note.*—Thus quot in original Despatc Enclosure 6 is, doub less, referred to.)

When application is made to the judicial assessor in case of property being left without any owner or representative of him in the colony, that officer either appoints a person to administer it, or takes possession of the property himself, takes an accurate inventory of it, disposes of it to the best advantage, calls in debts, and gives notice to all claimants to prove their demands by a certain day. On the realization of the proceeds of the estate, he pays the creditors rateably, and passes his account with the Governor, lodging the balance in the Colonial Chest, after deducting 7 ½ per cent. as his fees (under the Sierra Leone Ordinance 10 per cent. is deducted). I beg leave to refer your Grace to Enclosures Nos. 6, 7, 8, in proof that this has been the practice since my arrival on the Gold Coast.

Mr. Cruickshank, however, states that Mr. Maclean never assumed this office when he was President of the Council, nor did Mr. Cruickshank himself when he was acting judicial assessor. That I have no doubt is true; and for the same reason which makes Mr. Cruickshank object so strongly to a practice with regard to this estate which he acted on with regard to another, in which Messrs. Forster & Smith had no interest (Enclosure),* namely, that each was the agent, Mr. Maclean not so ostensibly, of Messrs. Forster & Smith at the periods to which he alludes, and that the persons who then died were correspondents of that firm. Mr. Maclean and Mr. Cruickshank therefore found the usual difficulty in serving two masters of opposite interests, the public, and Messrs. Forster & Smith. Neither Mr. Maclean nor Mr. Cruickshank would be allowed to make any matter in which that firm was concerned the subject of open and official examination; and so anxious did Mr. Matthew Forster feel on the death of Mr. Maclean to have an official still his real though unacknowledged agent, that he ventured on my appointment to the office of judicial assessor to write to me (a stranger) in such a manner with this view, as compelled me to forego all further correspondence with that gentleman.

* (*Note.*—Left blan in original Despatc Enclosure 4 is, doubt, referred to.)

4 Dec. 1848.

It is the knowledge of these facts, and the consequences of them, that has convinced all intelligent and disinterested persons that it is essential for the interests of the public to have some official, a disinterested party, to take charge of such estates. I know that such is the opinion of his Excellency Major Hill, and it was also that of the late Governor Sir William Winniett, and Mr. Maclean, who supplied him with the sketch of the proposed Ordinance, the principles of which have always been acted on, and I never heard the propriety of it denied until now.

With respect to the maladministration. As I am to be made legally responsible for it, I shall not trouble your Grace further than to assure you that I have not a shadow of doubt of being able to prove at the proper time that there never was an estate, similarly circumstanced, more beneficially administered. The goods which it is said I sacrificed by throwing them on the market when there was no trade, were sold at 25 per cent. above the invoice price, and if they had been kept until Mr. Cruickshank arrived, they would have been completely destroyed by damp and vermin, for which I would have been held responsible.

I trust, then, that as I have only discharged the duty which was expected and required of me, both by the community around me and the officer under whom I served, and as I have discharged that duty zealously and beneficially to those interested, which I can prove on the proper occasion, your Grace will consider that the labourer is worthy of his hire, and leave Messrs. Forster & Smith, or their agent, to the legal proceedings of which they have given notice, and by which I am prepared to abide.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick,*
Acting Governor.

My Lord Duke, Cape Coast, 26 July 1853.

It is with regret that I find myself compelled to apply to your Grace for redress under the following circumstances, the absence of Governor Hill from the settlements at the present time preventing me from obtaining the advantage of his protection, in the first instance, and my appeal to the Acting Governor against his own acts being, of course, of no avail.

2. Mr. Charles Clouston, merchant, and member of the Legislative Council of the Gold Coast, died here on the 31st day of March last, leaving a will (Sub-Enclosure 1). Under this will, his brother, Joseph Clouston, of the Orkneys, James Hervey (formerly Mr. Clouston's clerk) and myself, were appointed executors. This will was proved by James Hervey on the 12th day of April last, who thereafter received the keys of the stores from Mr. Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor. The other executors at the time were absent from the settlement. Mr. Hervey, however, having reason to know the estate to be solvent, and being ignorant of the intentions of the relatives of the deceased to continue the business or otherwise, considered it his duty to write his co-executors for instructions respecting the disposal of the property. He was prevented by sickness from taking an inventory of the estate, and he died on the 19th day of April, without doing so; so Mr. William Sutherland, the clerk of the deceased Mr. Clouston, remaining in the house to protect the property. Upon Mr. Hervey's death, Mr. Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor, upon the plea that the late Mr. Clouston's estate was now unrepresented, entered upon possession, issued notices of the sale of the goods and house, &c., and disposed of all by public sale and private contract, with the exception of a few insignificant items. The sale of the house was only concluded on the 16th June, one day before the arrival from England of the mail steamer with answers to Mr. Hervey's communication to his co-executors. I came out by this steamer, and landed early on the morning of the 18th, and having made arrangements with my co-executors and the creditors of the estate to occupy the house, and being empowered with full authority to act for my co-executors, I was prepared at once to enter upon possession of the property. I learned in the course of the day what had taken place in reference to the estate, and I called upon Mr. Fitzpatrick, and informed him that I considered his proceedings premature; I moreover asked him if it was by virtue of an Ordinance of the Legislative Council here that he had acted, as I was ignorant of any power of the kind vested in the judicial assessor. He informed me that his authority was derived from an Ordinance of the Sierra Leone Legislature. On Monday the 20th I called at the Secretary's office to obtain an inspection of this Ordinance, but it could not be found. I then addressed a letter to the judicial assessor, demanding the delivery of the estate into my charge, and received a reply, of which Sub-Enclosure 2 is a copy. In reference to the part of this communication respecting the securities taken, I requested that they might also be handed over to me. I was prevented by sickness from receiving Mr. Fitzpatrick's accounts of the estate until the 16th of July, when I had delivered to me the documents specified in his letter of the 12th of July, of which Sub-Enclosure 3 is a copy. Accompanying this letter was an account of receipts and disbursements of such an extraordinary nature (and of which Sub-Enclosure 4 is a copy), that I was again induced to apply, through his clerk, for an inspection of the Ordinance by authority

Sub-Enclosure 1. Copy of the Will of Charles Clouston.

Sub-Enclosure 2. Mr. Fitzpatrick to Mr. Cruickshank, 21 June 1853.

Sub-Enclosure 3. Mr. Fitzpatrick to Mr. Cruickshank, 12 July 1853.

Sub-Enclosure 4. Account of receipts and disbursements.

authority of which he had acted. Mr. Fitzpatrick had the courtesy to send me this Ordinance, which your Grace will perceive, from Sub-Enclosure No. 5, to be neither applicable to the Gold Coast, nor intended for it. When this pretended authority was presented as a sanction for acts which interfered so vitally with an estate of which I and my co-executors were the legal guardians, I naturally felt indignant, and demanded restitution of the money and bonds retained by the assessor in the name of commissions. Sub-Enclosure No. 6 is a copy of my letter. Some time after the receipt of this letter, Mr. Hanson, the assessor's clerk, called upon me for the purpose of entering into explanations respecting the minor inaccuracies which I had pointed out, and to pay over a small balance; I declined to receive anything at all, unless the whole sum demanded was delivered up, lest my doing so might be construed into acquiescence with the retention of the remainder. Not considering the clerk's verbal communication a sufficient answer to my letter of the 18th, I again on the 22d wrote to Mr. Fitzpatrick (Sub-Enclosure No. 7), to which the reply (having allusion to another application) directed me to make it in court. Upon Monday the 25th instant I appeared in court, and made my application in the terms expressed in Sub-Enclosure 10. As I had stated in this application that I could not consider Mr. Fitzpatrick's interference with Mr. Clouston's estate as any part either of his official or judicial functions, he did not consider any reply from him necessary. With reference to the general inventory, he instructed his clerk to prepare one for me.

Sub-Enclosure 5. Copy of an Ordinance of the Sierra Leone Legislature.

Sub-Enclosure 6. Mr. Cruickshank to Mr. Fitzpatrick, 18 July 1853.

Sub-Enclosure 7. Mr. Cruickshank to Mr. Fitzpatrick, 22 July 1853.

Sub-Enclosure 8. Mr. Fitzpatrick to Mr. Cruickshank, 22 July 1853.

Sub-Enclosure 9. Mr. Cruickshank to Mr. Fitzpatrick, 22 July.

Sub-Enclosure 10. Mr. Cruickshank's application to Mr. Fitzpatrick.

3. I have in the preceding paragraph furnished your Grace with a history of the circumstances which have compelled me to apply to your Grace for protection for myself, and the mercantile community generally, from the unauthorised proceedings of this self-appointed "receiver of unrepresented estates;" and I might perhaps rest my case alone upon the simple statement of it without further comment; but as I am ignorant what line of defence Mr. Fitzpatrick may adopt, it is necessary that I should say something in anticipation of it.

4. With reference to the Sierra Leone Ordinance (Sub-Enclosure No. 5), it would be a waste of words to point out its inapplication to these settlements. It makes no mention of the Gold Coast, nor of a judicial assessor, neither was it ever proclaimed here; and Her Majesty, or even the Governor temporarily, has made no appointment here of a "receiver of unrepresented estates." By this Ordinance (even if it had reference to the British settlements on the Gold Coast) the Judge would appear to be the only person not eligible for it, as it subjects the receiver of unrepresented estates to his surveillance. In other respects I have not heard that Mr. Fitzpatrick (although he assumes the Sierra Leone Ordinance for his authority) has even fulfilled the conditions upon which it should be exercised, such as giving a bond with two sureties, &c. In my letter to Mr. Fitzpatrick (Enclosure No. 6) the inapplicability of this Ordinance is further pointed out.

Sub-Enclosure 5.

5. It may be advanced that it was in contemplation to pass a similar Ordinance for these settlements, and to vest the authority in the judicial assessor; but no Ordinance of the kind has been passed by the Legislative Council here, and the intention to do so can give no legal rights; nor could it be promulgated without the most urgent remonstrances on the part of the mercantile community, whose property, chiefly in merchandise, would be placed at the disposal of a man unacquainted with commercial business.

6. It may also be alleged that use and wont in the settlement have devolved this office upon the chief magistrate, and to meet this view of the case, it is necessary to state, that during the administration of the president and council, the executive and judicial functions were both united in the president; and Mr. Maclean had occasion at different times to interfere in the case of unrepresented estates; but he did so only upon application made to him by the creditors of the estate, or from a power of attorney transmitted to him from the next of kin. Where there was no application made to him, and where he held no power of attorney, he merely sealed up and secured the property, and communicated with the representatives of the deceased in England and elsewhere. In proof of this, I can refer to his conduct in three distinct cases, upon the occasion of the deaths of Mr. Swanson and Mr. Grant, at Annamaboe, and Mr. Ridley at Accra, with whose estates, although unrepresented, he did not intermeddle. After his appointment to the office of judicial assessor, I am not aware that he had the administration of any unrepresented estate, and there is proof on record that he himself was conscious of having no authority to assume such administration, in a letter which he addressed to Governor Winniett, recommending an enactment to give him that authority. But if any instance can be adduced of his having acted in this manner by virtue of his office, I most respectfully submit, that such illegal proceeding on his part can give no legal sanction to the repetition of a similar offence by Mr. Fitzpatrick. During Mr. Maclean's temporary absence from the Coast in 1845, Mr. James Topp, merchant at Accra, died, leaving his brother, William Topp, then in Scotland, sole heir and executor. Mr. Joseph Clouston was acting judicial assessor at the time, but did not by virtue of his office interfere with the estate of the deceased. In 1848, Robert Johnson, merchant, died at Cape Coast, without any legal representative in the country. I was myself acting judicial assessor at the time, but took no part in the administration of his estate. Mr. Fitzpatrick's power cannot therefore be ascribed to the use and wont of the office of assessor.

7. It may be advanced that Mr. Fitzpatrick acted in the matter as an officer of the Governor. I am not aware that Governor Hill furnished him with any powers of the kind necessary, but I believe his Excellency could give Mr. Fitzpatrick no legal authority of a kind to interfere with the rights of an executor. I am confirmed in this opinion, from the fact that upon the occasion of the death of Mr. James Topp, at Accra, 1845, Mr. Lilley, the Acting Lieutenant-governor, assumed the power to execute a deed of trust, appointing trustees to take management of the estate. The present Earl of Derby, who was then

Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressed his disapproval of this act in the strongest terms, pronounced the deed null and void, and directed the estates of the deceased to be delivered over to his executor. I have not access to the despatch book of the time, but it was communicated to me by Mr. William Topp in the early part of November 1845. In the matter of Mr. Clouston's estate, it cannot be held that it was unrepresented because the acting executor died. The right of executorship survived to the others named in the will, wherever they might be.

8. I have now ventured to point out to your Grace that the Sierra Leone Ordinance gives no legal authority to the judicial assessor at Cape Coast to be receiver of unrepresented estates; that there is no Ordinance of the Legislative Council here vesting him with that authority; that it has not been the use and wont of the assessor to assume it; and that the Governor could not confer such authority to the prejudice of an executor. If your Grace should concur in this view of the case, I have the honour most respectfully to request that your Grace will be pleased to order the restitution of the sum of 433*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* currency, the amount retained by Mr. Fitzpatrick from Mr. Clouston's estate, and at the same time to take such measures as may seem necessary to protect the merchants of these settlements from proceedings of a similar nature.

9. I might not have considered it necessary to apply to your Grace, if Mr. Fitzpatrick's interference had been beneficial to the estate, nor would I have objected to give any one, under such circumstances, a just and reasonable remuneration for his services, provided I were satisfied that the interference had arisen from a *bonâ fide* intention of benefiting the estate; but I do not consider Mr. Fitzpatrick's intentions such. Moreover, he has, most injuriously to myself, interrupted an arrangement which I had made with my co-executor, the brother of the deceased, before leaving England, in reference to my occupation of the house, which has been sold, and the continuance of the business. He has also sacrificed the property by hurrying on a sale of goods at a time when trade was interrupted in consequence of a misunderstanding with Ashantee, and has almost rendered insolvent a perfectly solvent estate; thus depriving the creditors of their just claims, and the parents of the deceased of their son's bequest, and leaving the stigma of insolvency on the memory of a man noted for the scrupulous fulfilment of his commercial engagements.

10. In order to clear myself from the imputation of entering upon an unbecoming correspondence with the judicial assessor, upon a subject which, in his opinion, ought properly to have been brought before him in court, it is necessary to observe that I do not consider Mr. Fitzpatrick's proceedings in reference to the late Mr. Clouston's estate the acts of the judicial assessor, believing that any man in Cape Coast had as much legal right to sell Mr. Clouston's estate as he had; and, but for his position in the colony, it would have been my duty to sue him in court. I have too much regard to constituted authority to fail in want of respect; and during a long residence in the country I have supported the officers of the Government to the best of my ability.

Sub-Enclosuer 11. Mr. Cruickshank to the Acting Governor.

11. In accordance with the Colonial Regulations, I transmit this communication through the Acting Governor, leaving it open for his animadversions upon it.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Cruickshank.*

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 1, in No. 3.

Sub-Encl. 1, in No. 3.

This is the last will and testament of me, Charles Clouston, merchant, in Cape Coast, on the West Coast of Africa, whereby, after the payment of all my just and lawful debts, I devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate unto Robert Clouston and Janet Clouston, of Misthouse, in the parish of Starry by Stromness, Orkney, my father and mother, and to their heirs and assigns, free from control; and I hereby nominate and constitute and appoint Brodie Cruickshank, esquire, of Annamaboe, Joseph Clouston, esquire, at present residing in Scotland, my brother, and Mr. James Hervey, of Cape Coast, my clerk, to be the executors of this my last will and testament; and further, I leave and bequeath to each of my aforesaid executors the sum of 50*l.* sterling as a token of my regard for them.

In witness, &c.
(signed) *Charles Clouston.*

Witnesses,
(signed) *Wm. Hutchinson.*
Chas. Bannerman.

Proved by James Hervey, esq., on the 12th day of April 1853.

Sub-Enclosure 2, in No. 3.

Sub-Encl. 2, in No. 3.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 21 June 1853.

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I now send you the late Mr. Clouston's books, with some private and other letters addressed to him. I am engaged in preparing an account of my receipts and disbursements on foot of this estate, which I shall be ready to hand to you in a day or two. In the meantime, as with the view of administering the estate to the best advantage, I took securities for the payment of certain sums at a short date, I shall feel obliged by your informing me if you wish to have those now transferred and made payable to you. I trust that notwithstanding that the sale of the house has nullified

nullified the arrangement made between you and your co-executor for your residence in it, it will be found that the interests of the estate have received no detriment by my administration of it, so far as it has gone, but the contrary.

I am, &c.

The Hon. B. Cruickshank, &c. &c. &c. (signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick*, Judicial Assessor.

Sub-Enclosure 3, in No. 3.

In the Matter of the Estate of *Charles Clouston*, Esq., deceased, Unrepresented.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 12 July 1853.

I HAVE the honour to forward you, accompanying the undermentioned documents, securities, monies, &c., &c., which fell into my charge in this matter, in my capacity of guardian of the interests of unrepresented estates, also account sales, and a general account of my transactions in connexion with the same. Sub-Encl. 3, in No. 3.

	£.	s.	d.
1 Promissory Note of Rev. T. B. Freeman	407	8	3
1 - - Ditto - - - ditto	1,098	16	7
1 - - Ditto - - - ditto	1,076	13	6
Amamoo's mortgage for goods sold	1,039	1	1
1 Note of hand of Mr. G. Amamoo	69	14	6
2 - Ditto - S. C. Brew	615	-	-
1 - Ditto - F. Parker	98	11	5
1 - Ditto - Coffee Yammy	83	15	9
1 - Ditto - John Tandoe	49	14	4
1 - Ditto - Amamoo	22	9	3
1 - Ditto - Grant	18	4	9
1 - Ditto - Heinz	26	4	9
1 - Ditto - Marman & Co.	51	12	-
1 - Ditto - James Davis	51	9	5
1 - Ditto - Quarmino 1 - Ditto - Attopie	6	12	6
1 - Ditto - Peter Ayres	8	3	-
1 - Ditto - Joseph Smith	9	4	6
1 - Ditto - Cudjoe Aggary	9	-	9
1 - Ditto - Jacob Bartels	21	3	-
1 - Ditto - Josiah Tayvia	11	10	-
1 - Ditto - John De Graft	5	4	6
1 - Ditto - R. Hutchison	41	15	3
1 - Ditto - J. M. Hanson	8	8	6
1 - Ditto - J. C. Hanson	31	12	6
1 - Ditto - G. Blankson	40	10	9
1 - Ditto - S. Fergusson	36	4	5
1 - Ditto - S. C. Drew	62	17	3
1 - Ditto - Rev. E. Gardiner	28	4	-
1 - Ditto - T. B. Freeman	6	1	3
1 - Ditto - Joseph Dawson	7	7	-
1 - Ditto - R. E. Fergusson	11	-	9
Deposit of Coffee Emissah	100	-	-
Ditto - Effenhausen & Nagel	10	17	6
Ditto - F. Parker	10	-	-
Cash	25	17	6
	currency.		

Also one gold pencil case, one diamond pin, two English-made gold chains, one African-made gold chain, one demi-chain with a signet key, one signet gold ring, one African gold ring, four sets of gold shirt studs, one silver pen, one office seal.

I will be obliged to you for a receipt for the same; I have further to inform you that the notes as under have been retained on account of my fees.

Captain Hill's note of hand for	£. 62	4	9
Hughes's - - ditto	47	16	9
My own - - ditto	59	13	-

I have, &c.

The Honourable B. Cruickshank, &c. &c. &c. (signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick*, Judicial Assessor.

In addition to the notes above, amounting to 169*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, Mr. Fitzpatrick kept gold and cash amounting to 263*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, in all 433*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*

(signed) *B. C.*

Sub-Enclosure 4, in No. 3.

THE Hon. Judicial Assessor in Account with the Estate of *Charles Clouston*, Deceased.

Dr. *Cr.*

1853:	£.	s.	d.
21 April. To gold dust in Mr. Clouston's office	30	–	–
Silver coins	1	3	8
Deposit of Coffee Emissah	100	–	–
Ditto - of Tobey	43	17	6
Ditto - of Effenhausen & Nagel	10	17	6
Cash from Coffee Yammy	16	–	–
Colonial Secretary, for 18 shovels	4	9	–
Ambah Essecam	3	12	–
Foosorah Parker	32	–	–
Goods sold Amamoo	1,039	1	–
Ditto - Captain M'Court	85	13	10
Ditto - F. C. Grant	21	17	6
Ditto - D. Jowes	–	9	6
Rock gold, deposit from F. Parker	10	–	–
House sold	615	–	–
Goods sold by auction	735	5	9
F. Parker's account settled	98	11	5
Amamoo's ditto	69	14	5
P. Jones	49	14	4
Coffee Yammy ditto	83	15	5
Mr. Freeman's account, with interest, as settled by promissory notes	2,582	18	4
£.	5,634	1	7

1853:	£.	s.	d.
By one promissory note of Rev. T. B. Freeman, assigned to B. Cruickshank, esq., acting executor	407	8	3
Ditto - - - ditto	1,098	16	7
Ditto - - - ditto	1,076	13	6
Amamoo's mortgage for goods sold	1,039	1	1
Note of hand of Amamoo	69	14	5
Two notes ditto S. C. Brew	615	–	–
Ditto - ditto F. Parker	98	11	5
Ditto - ditto Coffee Yammy	83	15	–
Ditto - ditto John Fancoe	49	14	4
Ditto Amamoo	22	9	2
Grant	18	4	9
Heinz	26	4	9
Marenan & Co.	51	12	–
Quarmin Attopi	6	12	6
P. Ayres	8	8	–
Jos. Smith	9	4	6
Cudjoe Aggrey	9	–	9
Jacob Bartels	21	3	–
Josiah Tavia	11	10	–
John de Graft	5	4	6
R. Hutchinson	41	15	3
J. M. Hanson	8	8	6
J. C. Hanson	31	12	6
G. Blankson	40	10	9
S. Fergusson	36	4	5
S. C. Brew	62	17	3
Rev. E. Gardiner	28	4	–
Rev. F. B. Freeman	6	1	3
Josiah Dawson	7	7	–
R. E. Fergusson	11	–	9
	515	–	1
Deposit of Coffee Emissah	100	–	–
Ditto of Effenhausen & Nagel	10	17	6
Paid Wm. Hanson, as per receipt *	11	–	11
Rock gold, deposit of F. Parker	10	–	–
Cash	25	17	6
Commission, 5,634 *l.* 1 *s.* 7 *d.*, at 7 ½ per cent.	422	10	3
£.	5,634	1	7

* Part of the commission retained, the amount given to the clerk.

Sub-Encl. 5, in No. 3.

Sub-Enclosure 5, in No. 3.

SIERRA LEONE.

In the Tenth Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen VICTORIA.

Norman William Macdonald, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief.

[13 April 1847.]

AT a Council held on the 13th day of April, in the year of our Lord 1847.

AN Ordinance to provide for the Protection and Administration of Unrepresented Estates within the Colony of *Sierra Leone*.

WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for the protection and due administration of the estates of persons dying unrepresented in the colony, and also for the protection of the estates of persons absent from the colony, and having no representative therein:

1. Be it therefore enacted, by the Governor and Council, that, in the construction of this Ordinance, the word "Governor" shall be taken to mean the person administering the government of the colony for the time being; and the word "month" shall be taken to mean a calendar month; and the word "estate" shall be taken to include every species of property,

property, both real and personal; and every word importing the singular number only, shall be applied to several persons or things as well as to one person or thing; and every word importing the masculine gender only, shall extend and be applied to a female as well as to a male, unless the context shall require a different construction.

2. And be it enacted, that upon the taking effect of this Ordinance, there shall be nominated and appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, or provisionally by the Governor, on Her Majesty's behalf, an officer in and for the colony of Sierra Leone, to be called and bear the style of "The Receiver of Unrepresented Estates."

3. And be it enacted, that the receiver of unrepresented estates, previously to his entering upon the duties of his office, shall give unto Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors, for the faithful performance of his duties, and for the payment of all money which shall at any time come into his hands, a bond, executed by himself and two sureties, for the sum of 1,000*l.* sterling, and the sufficiency of the said bond and sureties shall be subject to the approval of the Governor.

4. And be it enacted, that the said receiver of unrepresented estates, previously to his entering upon the duties of his office, shall take and subscribe the following oath before the Governor:

I, , do swear that I will faithfully, honestly, and diligently perform the duties of the office of "Receiver of Unrepresented Estates," without fear, favour, or partiality. So help me God.

5. And be it enacted, that the receiver of unrepresented estates shall be bound to attend at his office for the discharge of his duties from 11 o'clock in the morning until 1 o'clock in the afternoon of every day, Sundays and holidays excepted.

6. And be it enacted, that the receiver of unrepresented estates shall be personally responsible for the honesty and fidelity of every clerk, servant, or other person whom he may deem it necessary to employ in the execution of the duties of his office.

7. And be it enacted, that the receiver of unrepresented estates shall not act as the attorney or agent of any person, nor act as the executor or administrator of any deceased person, save and except such deceased person shall have been his wife, or shall have been related to him not more remotely than the fourth degree, according to the computation of the civil law.

8. And be it enacted, that the receiver of unrepresented estates shall from time to time, so often as he shall find any estate which he shall consider unrepresented, present a petition to the Judge of the Court of the Ordinary, stating the particulars of such estate, and praying for an order to collect and receive the same; and the said judge is hereby required, upon being satisfied that such estate is unrepresented, to grant such order accordingly.

9. And be it enacted, that such unrepresented estates shall be defined to mean as follows:

1st. The estate of every person who shall die intestate, where the widow or next of kin of such person shall be unknown, or shall have refused to take out letters of administration, or shall be absent from the colony without having an agent therein.

2d. The estate of every person who shall die leaving a will, and owing to any cause it shall be necessary to appoint administrators *cum testamento annexo* or *de bonis non* of such estate, and the person entitled to such letters of administration shall be unknown, or shall refuse to take out such letters of administration, or shall be absent from the colony without having an agent therein.

3d. Every estate whereof the executors or administrators shall be absent from the colony without having an agent therein.

4th. The estate of any person who shall be absent from the colony without having an agent therein.

10. And be it enacted, that from and after the taking effect of this Ordinance, no letters of administration of any estate shall be granted to any person in the character of a creditor thereof, but in every case where, but for this Ordinance, letters of administration of any estate would be granted to a creditor thereof, such estate shall be considered as unrepresented within the meaning of this Ordinance.

11. And be it enacted, that after receiving such order as aforesaid, the said receiver shall forthwith take possession of, and cause an inventory of the estate mentioned in such order to be made, and shall file the same in the Court of the Ordinary.

12. And be it enacted, that upon the petition of any person claiming to be lawfully entitled to the administration or management of any estate, in respect of which any such order shall have been made as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the said judge, if he shall see fit, to revoke such order, and to direct the said receiver to desist from interfering with such estate: Provided always, that all matters and things which shall have been *bonâ fide* done or performed by the receiver previously to the presenting of such petition, shall be valid and effectual to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

13. And be it enacted, that upon the death or removal from office of any receiver of unrepresented estate for the time being, all real and personal estates and effects which shall have been vested in such receiver by virtue of this Ordinance at the time of his death or removal shall become vested in the succeeding receiver of unrepresented estates by virtue of his appointment, without the necessity of any act or deed whatsoever.

14. And be it enacted, that the receiver of unrepresented estates shall, as soon as possible after the receiving of any order to collect any estate, get in and collect all debts due to the same, and institute, if necessary, all and every legal process requisite for compelling payment thereof.

15. And be it enacted, that the receiver of unrepresented estates shall carry on such process in any court, either of law or equity, by the name of the receiver of unrepresented estates, and no such process shall abate or be prejudiced by the death or removal of any such receiver, but the same may be continued and carried on by his successor.

16. And be it enacted, that if any person shall retain in his hands, or employ for his own benefit, or knowingly permit any other person so to retain or employ any sum of money or other effects part of any unrepresented estate, after a demand thereof shall have been made by the receiver of unrepresented estates, every such person shall be charged and pay interest at the rate of 2*l.* for every 100*l.* for the month on such money, or on the value of such effects, for the time during which he shall have retained or employed the same, or permitted the same to be retained or employed as aforesaid; and the receiver of unrepresented estates is hereby authorised and required to demand and sue for such interest, either together with the principal money or effects, or separately, as may be more convenient.

17. And be it enacted, that the receiver of unrepresented estates shall, immediately after the taking possession of the estate of any deceased person as aforesaid, affix and put up in the office of the secretary of the colony notice in writing, calling upon the creditors of the estate mentioned in such notice to come in and prove their debts on or before a certain day, to be therein named, or in default thereof to be excluded from any benefit arising from such estate, and shall cause a copy of such notice to be inserted in the "London Gazette" twice, allowing two months to intervene between such insertions; and the creditors or claimants residing within the colony, or the dependencies thereof, shall be bound to file their claims at the office of the receiver of unrepresented estates within four months from the time of the putting up such notice as aforesaid; and the creditors or claimants residing out of the colony, or its dependencies, shall be bound to file their claims as aforesaid within three months from the publication of the last advertisement in the "London Gazette," on pain, in default thereof, of being excluded from any benefit arising from such estate.

18. And be it enacted, that such claim shall express the name and place of abode of the claimant, the origin of the debt or claim, the degree or class of such debt, and the particulars and exact amount thereof, verified by declaration, and there shall be also annexed to such claim the document or documents, which shall be considered evidence thereof.

19. And be it enacted, that where any creditor or claimant shall dispute the validity of any claim, the contending parties shall forthwith draw up and settle a statement in writing of the grounds upon which such dispute shall have arisen, and submit the same to the said judge; and where such parties, or either of them, shall neglect or refuse to draw up and settle such statement, and submit the same to the said judge, or where the said receiver shall himself entertain doubts of the validity of any claim, he shall forthwith draw up a statement of the grounds upon which such dispute or doubts shall have arisen, and submit the same to the said judge, who shall in every such case make such order thereon as the circumstances of the case may require.

20. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said judge at any time to make an order for the immediate sale by the said receiver of such part of any estate as shall be of a perishable nature.

21. And be it enacted, that the said receiver shall, within two months after the taking possession of the estate of any deceased person, sell and dispose of all the personal property belonging to such estate by public auction (one month's public notice in writing of such intended sale having been previously given): Provided always, that the judge may, if he see fit, by any order or orders, extend the time within which such sale shall be made, or direct the said estate to be sold by private contract.

22. And be it enacted, that in case it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the said judge, that the money arising from the sale of the personal property belonging to the estate of any deceased person shall be insufficient to discharge the debts and liabilities thereof, it shall be lawful for the said judge to grant an order under his hand, directing the said receiver to sell the whole, or such part of the real property belonging to any such estate, as the said judge may deem necessary, for the purpose aforesaid, and such order shall be a sufficient authority to the said receiver to sell any property therein mentioned, and a sufficient protection to the purchaser thereof; provided, that nothing herein shall be taken or construed to give any such purchaser any other or better title to such property than shall have been possessed by the last owner thereof.

23. And

23. And be it enacted, that at the expiration of eight months from the date of the order for taking possession of the estate of any deceased person, the said receiver, out of the money which shall have been received on account thereof, shall, in the first place, reimburse himself of all costs and charges which he shall reasonably have incurred in collecting and settling such estate (such costs and charges having been first allowed by the said judge), and also shall deduct and pay into the colonial treasury ten per cent. upon the gross amount of such money, to be applied as hereinafter mentioned; and in the next place, shall pay the creditors of the said estate in the order prescribed by law, if sufficient money shall remain for the payment thereof in full; but if sufficient money shall not remain for the payment of all the said creditors in full, then the same shall be divided rateably among the said creditors, in such manner, nevertheless, that no creditor whose debt shall be of an inferior degree shall receive any part of his debt until the creditors of the superior degree or degrees shall have been paid in full; and the balance (if any) which shall remain after such payments, shall be paid into or remain in the colonial treasury in trust for the next of kin, heir-at-law, legatee, or devisee of such deceased person, as the case may be.

24. And be it enacted, that the ten per cent. so to be deducted and paid by the "Receiver of Unrepresented Estates" as aforesaid, shall be applied in the manner following; that is to say, seven and a half per cent., part thereof, shall be paid at the end of every quarter by the colonial treasurer to the receiver of unrepresented estates, as a remuneration for the services which he is required by this Ordinance to perform: Provided nevertheless, that it shall be lawful at any time hereafter to commute the said allowance for a fixed salary, without reference to the amount which the said per centage may have realised to the receiver; and two and a half per cent. remainder of the said ten per cent. shall be applied to providing a reserved fund for defraying the other incidental expenses of carrying this Ordinance into effect.

25. And be it enacted, that the expenses of every legal process and other matter which it shall be necessary to institute or perform on behalf of any estate, the assets whereof shall be insufficient to defray such expenses, shall be paid out of the said reserved fund: Provided always, that previously to the incurring any such expenses on behalf of any such estate, the receiver of unrepresented estates shall apply for and obtain the sanction of the said judge.

26. And be it enacted, that no action or suit shall be brought against the said receiver on account of any debt due from any such estate as aforesaid; but if the said receiver shall refuse to admit any such debt or claim, or to pay the same, or the proper dividend thereon, it shall be lawful for the said judge upon petition, supported by affidavit of the party aggrieved, to make such order touching the admission and payment of such debt, and the costs of the application, as the circumstances may requite.

27. And be it enacted, that any person who shall claim, in any other character than that of a creditor thereof, any estate or any balance which shall be in the hands of the "Receiver of Unrepresented Estates," or in the hands of the colonial treasurer as aforesaid, shall apply to the said judge, by petition, to have the same delivered over to him; and it shall be lawful for the said judge, upon being satisfied of the validity of such claim, to make such order or orders as shall be necessary for the delivering over of such estate or balance, according to the prayer of the petition; and where two or more persons shall lay claim to any estate or balance, it shall be lawful for the said judge, with the consent of both, or all such persons, their counsel or attornies, to dispose of the merits of their claims, and determine the same in a summary manner, and to make such order therein touching the costs and all other matters as the circumstances may require; but where such consent as aforesaid shall not be given, such persons shall proceed to try the merits of their claims according to the usual course of law; and the said colonial treasurer or the said receiver, as the case may be, shall, if necessary, take the proper steps for compelling such persons to interplead, either at law or in equity.

28. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said judge to make such orders upon the colonial treasurer for the payment to the said receiver of such monies as shall from time to time be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this Ordinace, and such orders shall be a sufficient authority to the said treasurer for the payment of the sums therein expressed.

29. And be it enacted, that the said receiver shall upon the first Monday in every month exhibit a statement, upon oath, of his accounts to the said judge, who shall forthwith ascertain the balance, and allow such accounts, if he shall find them correct; and the said receiver shall, within 48 hours next after such allowance, pay the balance so ascertained into the hands of the colonial treasurer, to the credit of the estate or respective estates on account of which the same shall have been received.

30. And be it enacted, that the "Receiver of Unrepresented Estates" shall not receive any remuneration for his services until he shall have exhibited to the Governor a certificate, under the hand of the judge, in the following form:

"I hereby certify, that A. B., the 'Receiver of Unrepresented Estates,' hath on the first Monday of every month during the last quarter exhibited to me a statement, on oath, of his accounts, and that I have audited, and allowed every such statement, and that the

balance of account ascertained on the first Monday of was £. , that the balance of account on the first Monday of was £. , and the balance of account on the first Monday of was £.

"*C. D.*, Judge."

And shall have further exhibited to the Governor a certificate under the hand of the treasurer, in the following form:

"I hereby certify, that A. B., 'Receiver of Unrepresented Estates,' hath in every month, during the last quarter, paid over to me, within 48 hours next after the allowance of his monthly account, the balance ascertained by the judge.

"*E. F.*, Treasurer."

31. And be it enacted, that the said receiver shall keep a separate account of and for each estate which he shall receive into his hands under this Ordinance, and shall open, and keep open the following books:

1st. A book for the entry of all claims against every estate.

2d A book for entering debts due to every estate.

3d. A cash book.

4th. A journal.

5th. A ledger.

6th. Such other subsidiary books as may be necessary.

32. And be it enacted, that any person shall be at liberty to inspect the books and accounts of the said receiver during his office hours, on payment of a fee of 2*s.* 6*d.*

33. And be it enacted, that the forms contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed, marked (A.), and none other, shall be used in the cases to which they apply, and that the forms contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed, marked (B.), shall be adhered to, as nearly as the circumstances of each case shall permit.

34. And be it enacted, that this Ordinance shall come into operation immediately after the passing thereof.

Sub-Enclosure 6, in No. 3.

Sir, Cape Coast, 18 July 1853.

Sub-Encl. 6, in No. 3.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th July, forwarding documents, securities, monies, &c., &c., belonging to the estate of the late Charles Clouston, and also accounts of sales, and a general account of your intromissions with the estate. The very extraordinary nature of this latter document, from which I perceive that you have retained in your possession, in the name of fees for yourself and clerk, the large amount of 433*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, induced me to request permission to examine the Ordinance by authority of which you had acted in this matter. Having done so carefully, I do not find that it is applicable to these settlements at all. It conveys no authority whatever to you, as judicial assessor, to be "receiver of unrepresented estates." During the connexion of these settlements with the colony of Sierra Leone as a dependency, no Ordinance passed by the Legislature there had the effect of law in the British settlements on the Gold Coast, unless particularly so specified; and in the said Ordinance there is no mention made of the Gold Coast at all. Moreover, Ordinances intended to apply to these settlements only became law after their promulgation here of a proclamation of the President of the Council or the Lieutenant-governor, as the case might be. No proclamation whatever was ever made of this Ordinance, nor was its existence known to the mercantile community. I am enabled to state, however, that it was transmitted to Governor Winniett by Earl Grey, with the view of having a similar Ordinance passed here, if it should be deemed advisable. Such Ordinance never has been passed to affect this place.

Your interference with the estate has been therefore altogether illegal; and I enter my protest against the whole of your proceedings in reference to it, holding you responsible for all losses sustained by the said estate through your acts.

From the cursory examination which I have been able to make of your dealings with the estate, I can perceive that it will sustain a serious loss from the hurried sale of the property, at a time when the trade was interrupted by the unsettled state of the country consequent upon the Ashantee outbreak.

With reference to the manner in which you have thought fit to charge commissions, I need scarcely remark, as even in the case of the legality of your proceedings, it could never for a moment be tolerated. You have charged upon book debts, amounting to 3,499*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, the sum of 262*l.* 9*s.*, upon the plea of having taken promissory notes for their payment, which promissory notes do not advance the cash payment a single step; on the contrary, they might retard it, as it was competent for the executors to get from the court, if necessary, a decree for payment, and execution thereupon. Again, for goods sold by

by auction and private contract, amounting to 1,774 *l.* 6 *s.* 10 *d.*, you have charged 133 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, while of the whole amount, only 50 *l.* 11 *s.* 2 *d.* have been realized in cash, and it is doubtful whether payment in full may ever be made. Besides this, you enter the house as sold, 615 *l.*, and charge commissions of 7 ½ per cent. upon the whole amount; at the same time, you take promissory notes for only 600 *l.* if the payment be made within a specified time; and this sale you conclude with a man who not many weeks before made a composition with his creditors of 0 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound. In addition to all this, you charge commissions upon the gold and securities found in the house of the deceased at his death. There are other minor inaccurate charges, which only deserve notice as evidencing a determination to mulct the estate to the utmost extent possible; such as—

1. Full commissions on the gold in the house of the deceased at the time of his decease.

2. Full commissions upon a small parcel of gold belonging to the estate of Effenhausen and Nagel.

3. Full commissions upon a deposit of 100 *l.*, which represented a debt due by the King of Cape Coast, which ought to have been paid in court before Mr. Clouston's death, and for which Mr. Clouston took the security of the deposit upon the solicitation of Governor Hill.

4. Full commissions upon a promissory note of Toosue Parker, for 98 *l.* 11 *s.* 5 *d.*, and upon a deposit of 10 *l.* which represented part of it; a clear overcharge of commissions upon 10 *l.*, which had no existence among the assets of the estate.

5. Full commissions upon a promissory note of Coffee Yammie for 83 *l.* 15 *s.* 9 *d.*, while his true balance, as might have been seen by the books, was 75 *l.* 1 *s.* 7 *d.*

6. A payment to Mr. Hanson of one on 735 *l.* 5 *s.* 9 *d.* currency, which calculated to be 3 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.* Under any circumstances, these commissions must have been disputed, and to a great extent disallowed; but under the circumstances of your illegal interference, I can only, as an executor for the estate, demand immediate restitution of the bonds and cash representing the sum of 433 *l.* 0 *s.* 2 *d.* which you have thought fit to retain. At the same time, I have to observe that I do not find among the documents handed to me any general inventory of the property on hand at the time of Mr. Clouston's decease, and I beg that I may be furnished with one.

I have, &c.

The Hon. J. C. Fitzpatrick, (signed) *B. Cruickshank,*
&c. &c. &c. Executor of the Estate of the late Charles Clouston.

Sub-Enclosure 7, in No. 3.

Sir, Cape Coast, 22 July 1853.

I HAVE the honour to request that I may be favoured with a reply to my letter of the 18th instant, in reference to Mr. Clouston's estate. Sub-Encl. No. 3.

I have, &c.

The Honourable J. C. Fitzpatrick, (signed) *B. Cruickshank.*
Judicial Assessor, &c. &c. &c.

Sub Enclosure 8, in No. 3.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 22 July 1853.

I BEG to inform you that my reply to your letter of the 18th instant was conveyed to you on yesterday by my clerk, Mr. Hanson. As I sit in court on three days of each week for the purpose of hearing and disposing of all matters which should be brought before me, I do not consider it requisite or becoming to carry on a correspondence on such subjects with persons resident in the town of Cape Coast. Sub-Encl. No. 3.

I have, &c.

The Honourable B. Cruickshank, (signed) *J. C. Fitzpatrick.*
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 9, in No. 3.

Sir, Cape Coast, 22 July 1853.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter in reply to my communication of this date, and although you may now consider it unbecoming to correspond with me upon a matter which formed the subject of a letter from yourself on the 12th July (which communication was only received on the 16th), I must still incur the risk of writing you, for the purpose of giving you notice that I will on Monday, the 25th instant, Sub-Encl. No. 3.

attend in court to demand restitution of the money, which you have thought fit to retain, in the matter of the late Mr. Charles Clouston's estate, as well as a general inventory of his effects at the time of his death; and I give this notice to prevent any further delay.

I have, &c.

The Honourable J. C. Fitzpatrick,
Judicial Asssessor, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *B. Cruickshank.*

Sub-Enclosure 10, in No. 3.

Copy of Application made in Court, 25 July 1853, by *Brodie Cruickshank*, in the Matter of the late *Charles Clouston*'s Estate.

ub-Encl. 10, in o. 3.

1. I appear in court this day as an executor under the will of the late Charles Clouston, to demand restitution from you, the Honourable James Coleman Fitzpatrick, of monies, securities, and bonds, amounting to the sum of 433 *l.* 0 *s.* 11 *d.*, which you have thought fit to retain in your possession, in the name of fees for yourself and clerk; and I make this application in court because your Honour has declined to give me an answer in writing; but I do not by this application acknowledge the affairs of the estate of the late Charles Clouston to be, in their present stage, the subject either of official or judicial interference, and I protest against any such construction being put upon my present application; as in any written communication to you on the subject I wrote to you, not in reference to your judicial or official functions, but as to one who, without any legal sanction, had seized and disposed of property of which I and my co-executor were the legal guardians.

2. I have the honour to request that I may be furnished with a general inventory of the estate at the time of your entering upon the administration of it.

Sub-Enclosure 11, in No. 3.

Sir,

Cape Coast, 26 July 1853.

ub-Encl. 11, in o. 3.

I have the honour to forward through you an open communication to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, with Enclosures 1 to 11, complaining of the proceedings of the judicial assessor in reference to the estate of the late Charles Clouston, and to request that it may be forwarded to England by the first mail steamer. A duplicate copy will be sent in, in time for the succeeding mail.

Pending the result of this application to his Grace, I have the honour to request that your Excellency will be pleased to instruct the judicial assessor to lodge in the Colonial Chest the sum of 433 *l.* 0 *s.* 2 *d.* currency, which he has kept out of the estate, and he has declined to deliver it to me, the executor.

I have, &c.

His Excellency J. C. Fitzpatrick,
Acting Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *B. Cruickshank,*
Executor for the Estate of the late
Charles Clouston.

Enclosure 1, in No. 3.

cl. 1, in No. 3.

I, Brodie Cruickshank, of Cape Coast, merchant, an executor under the will of the late Charles Clouston, of Cape Coast, do hereby enter my most solemn protest and appeal against all acts and proceedings of the Honourable James Coleman Fitzpatrick in reference to the estate of the late Charles Clouston, deceased; and I do hereby hold him responsible for all the detriment sustained by the said estate through his illegal seizure and disposal of the property, to the prejudice of me, the acting executor, and those having claims upon the said estate; and I reserve for myself and co-executor the right to sue him the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, if necessary, in a court or courts of law. And I desire this my solemn protest and appeal to be formally noted and registered.

(signed) *B Cruickshank,*
Executor under the last Will and Testament of
Charles Clouston.

Protest noted before me, and signed in triplicate, this 23d day of July 1853, at Cape Coast, on the Gold Coast, after payment made of the ordinary fee.

(signed) *Henry Barnes,* J. P.

Witness,
(signed) *Thomas Charles Hutchinson.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 3.

Cape Coast Castle, 30 July 1853

I HEREBY certify that on the day of Mr. Hervey's death, 18th April 1853, Mr. Sinclair, his clerk, called on me, in the absence of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor, to take possession of the property of his late master. I took some steps to effect this object, but Mr. Fitzpatrick having arrived the next day, the matter was placed in his hands by Mr. Sinclair, and I heard no more of it. Encl. 2, in No

(signed) *J. M'Court*, Capt., J. P.

Enclosure 3, in No. 3.

EXTRACT Letter Book (B.)

Sir, Cape Coast, 14 December 1848.

THE house now rented by the Colonial Government, and occupied as a colonial hospital, was bequeathed to the late Mrs. Mary Jackson by her first husband, Patrick Dod, for her lifetime, at her decease to his son, or failing his son to his sister. I only discovered this a day or two ago, or I should have informed you of the fact. I now, therefore, beg you will take possession of the said house for the rightful owner, and send some persons to report to you its present condition. Encl. 3, in N

I have, &c.

J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq. (signed) *F. Swanzy*,
Executor to the Will of the late Mrs. Jackson.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Letter Book (B), dated 28th December 1848.

F. Swanzy, Esq. to Judicial Assessor.

"I AM far from wishing to impute neglect to Messrs. Brew & Blankson, but I think that it is almost impossible for these gentlemen, who have their own extensive business to attend to, to spare the time necessary for collecting the debts due to the estate.

"I am empowered to act for Messrs. Regis, Messrs. Effenhausen & Nagel, and Mr. Henry Smith, whose claims, added to my own, are about two-thirds of the whole amount due. As agent for these parties, and in my own behalf, I will request you to be kind enough to give your assistance, and to appoint some person to collect the outstanding debts as quick as possible, so that our claims may be liquidated."

Enclosure 4, in No. 3.

Cape Coast Castle, 27 July 1853.

I HEREBY certify that since my arrival on the Coast in the year 1847, it has been the practice for the judicial assessor to take charge of and administer property of which there was no owner or representative in the colony, and that I have made payments on behalf of the Government to that officer in that capacity, by the instructions of the late Governor Sir William Winniett. I have also during the absence of the judicial assessor been allowed fees, at the rate of 7 ½ per cent. by Mr. Cruickshank on an estate so circumstanced when he became its representative, with the sanction and approval of his Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief; and I further certify that from time to time accounts have been passed and balances lodged in the Colonial Chest by the judicial assessor on account of such estates. Encl. 4, in N

(signed) *H. W. Firth*,
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 5, in No. 3.

Cape Coast Castle, to wit.

Encl. 5, in No. 3. SAMUEL CHRISTIAN, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, maketh oath, and saith that he recollects when Quacoo Tayvia, one of the captains and headmen of Cape Coast, died, in the year 1850. Deponent then was interpreter to the judicial assessor, and as the said Quacoo Tayvia's heir was out of the country, his relatives and family called on the judicial assessor to take the property for him. Deponent was employed as auctioneer on that occasion by the judicial assessor, and the proceeds were sent, he believes, to Sierra Leone.

(signed) *Samuel Christian.*

Sworn before me, this 1st day of August 1853.

(signed) *H. W. Firth*, J. P.

Enclosure 6, in No. 3.

My dear Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 15 October 1850.

Encl. 6, in No. 3. I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, transmitting to me a statement of the effects of the late Quacoo Tavia, and requesting instructions as to the disposal of the sum remaining in your hands, 37 *l.* 3 *s.* 10 *d.* As the communication you had on the subject with the Colonial Secretary at Sierra Leone mentions that the persons entitled to the residue of the estate are now residing at that place, I beg that the sum may be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary at Sierra Leone, for the use of persons so entitled.

I have, &c.

The Hon. J. C. Fitzpatrick,
Judicial Assessor.

(signed) *W. Winniett*,
Governor.

Enclosure 7, in No. 3.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 4 January 1850.

Encl. 7, in No. 3. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, with the sum of sixty-five pounds, thirteen shillings and three pence (65 *l.* 13 *s.* 3 *d.* sterling), to be lodged in the Colonial Chest, being the net amount of money for Mr. Henry Dodd, arising from the rent of his house by the Colonial Government, from the 1st of October 1848 to 31st December 1850, and will lay the account of the same before his Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.

The Hon. J. C. Fitzpatrick,
Judicial Assessor.

(signed) *Joseph Smith*,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 8, in No. 3.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 17 January 1851.

Encl. 8, in No. 3. I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing your accounts with Mr. Swanaker, the administrator of the estate of Mr. Lutrott, deceased, the sum of ninety-nine pounds eight shillings and five pence sterling (99 *l.* 8 *s.* 5 *d.* sterling). His Excellency the Governor has directed me to lodge the same in the Colonial Chest.

I have, &c.

The Hon. J. C. Fitzpatrick,
Judicial Assessor.

(signed) *Joseph Smith*,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

— No. 4. —

No. 68.)

No. 4.
Acting-Governor Fitzpatrick to Duke of Newcastle.
2 August 1853.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting-Governor *Fitzpatrick* to His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

Cape Coast Castle, 2 August 1853.
(Received, 10 September 1853.)

My Lord Duke, (Answered, No. 56, 11 October 1853, page 38.)

I HAVE the honour to enclose a very voluminous communication, which Mr. Cruickshank, the agent on the Gold Coast of Messrs. Forster & Smith, has addressed to your Grace respecting my having taken charge of and administered the estate] of the late Mr. Hervey, deceased, and having refused him letters of administration, as agent of Mr. John Hervey, of the Orkneys, on his applying to me in Court on the 25th ultimo. 27 July 1853

2. In reply to this I beg leave respectfully to submit, for your Grace's consideration, that to the best of my judgment I acted correctly in refusing letters of administration to Mr. Cruickshank, under the circumstances; and as Mr. Hervey, of the Orkneys, did not take out letters of administration in England, which he might have done, I could not recognise Mr. Cruickshank as that gentleman's agent in this matter, for he could not delegate to another an authority which he had not himself acquired.

3. With regard to the manner in which this estate came into my charge I beg to refer your Grace to my despatch,* No. 67, and its Enclosure, No. 1. * Pp. 2, 4.

4. In the present communication from Mr. Cruickshank, para. 5, he informs your Grace that my conduct will form the subject of law proceedings in England, of which he has given me formal notice (Enclosure 1), and that he only solicits your Grace to prevent my retaining the proceeds of the estate in my own possession for eight months. Dated 25 July 1853.

5. Your Grace will appreciate the fair and *bonâ fide* nature of this application, when I state that so far back as last May, I forwarded to Messrs. Forster & Smith, as brokers, a large portion of the proceeds of the estate, all that was realised, and that before Mr. Cruickshank applied to me for letters of administration I had made arrangements with him to send the remainder to Messrs. Forster & Smith by a vessel of theirs, the "Governor Maclean," now on the coast.

I beg to enclose your Grace a copy of a letter which, in May last, I addressed to Messrs. Forster & Smith. 31 May 1853.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 4.

Encl. 1, in No. 4.

I, Brodie Cruickshank, of Cape Coast, merchant, as attorney for Messrs. Forster & Smith, New City Chambers, London, having been given to understand that the Honourable James Coleman Fitzpatrick did, upon the death of James Hervey of Accra, without any application from the creditors of the said James Hervey, and without their sanction and concurrence, enter upon the administration of the estate of the deceased, who at the time of his death was indebted to my principals the sum of 5,500*l.* sterling and upwards, do hereby enter my solemn protest and appeal against the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick's illegal intromission with the estate, holding him responsible for all losses sustained by my constituents, Messrs. Forster & Smith, through his acts in reference to this matter; and I desire this my formal protest and appeal to be noted and registered.

(signed) *B. Cruickshank,*
Attorney for Messrs. Forster & Smith.

Protest noted before me and signed in triplicate at Cape Coast, on the 25th day of July 1853, after payment of the ordinary fee.

(signed) *Henry Barnes,* J.P.
Witness, *Thomas Charles Hutchison.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 4.

Gentlemen, Accra, 31 May 1853.

Encl. 2, in No. 4. I BEG leave to enclose you a bill of lading for 6,673 ½ gallons of palm oil shipped by me on board the "Thomas Snook," and I have to request that you will place the proceeds of the same to the credit of the estate of the late James Hervey, deceased. I also enclose an order on Mr. Moffatt's shipment, by the same vessel, for 2,961 gallons of palm oil, which you will please dispose of in the same manner.

You are aware that it is part of my duty here to administer unrepresented estates, and as fortunately for those interested in them, I am by usage entrusted with a good deal of discretion in the manner of realising the property, in the present instance I have exercised it somewhat freely, owing to the present circumstances of the coast, by entrusting about 2,000*l.* worth of the late Mr. Hervey's property to his late clerk, Mr. Sinclair, to be disposed of for palm oil within the next three months, so that by those means I expect to have the entire estate completely wound up within four months from this date, and as you are the principal creditors, I am happy to be able to inform you that I have every reason to hope that the estate will pay 17*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.

I should feel obliged by your instructing the masters of any of your vessels likely to be here in the month of August or September next, to afford me what facilities they can in making shipments to you about that time.

I am, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick,*
Judicial Assessor.

Messrs. Forster & Smith,
New City Chambers,
London.

Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

My Lord Duke, Cape Coast, 27 July 1853.

Encl. 3, in No. 4. I HAVE again the misfortune of being under the necessity of making a second application to your Grace in reference to the proceeding of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor, arising, like the former, out of his assumed right to administer unrepresented estates; but in the present instance the estate is intestate.

2. Mr. James Hervey, merchant in Accra, died at Cape Coast on the 19th of April last. Mr. Fitzpatrick immediately entered upon the administration of his estate without any application from the creditors. Upon my arrival on the coast, holding as I did a power of attorney from Messrs. Forster & Smith, the principal creditors of the deceased, I addressed a note to the judicial assessor, requesting to know when it would be convenient for him to call a meeting of Mr. Hervey's creditors, in the hope that I might have been enabled to communicate to his principal creditors in England the state of his affairs. Mr. Fitzpatrick informed me in reply, that he had no intention of calling a meeting of the creditors at all, as will be seen from Enclosure 1. Considering that I had no legal powers to proceed any further in the matter, I merely communicated the state of affairs to my principals in England. On the 18th July the mail steamer brought me a letter from the father of the deceased James Hervey, and his next of kin, enclosing a power of attorney to act for him (Enclosures 2 and 3). On the day following I called upon Mr. Fitzpatrick and presented to him the power of attorney; after perusing it, he said, "Well, my impression after reading this power is, that I must give up the estate to you (which is, I suppose, what you mean by showing it), but I do not wish to be bound by what I say now. You will forward it to me with a letter." After leaving him I did so (Enclosure 4). On the 21st I received a letter from the assessor's clerk, re-enclosing the power of attorney, and informing me that my application in reference to it would be received in court upon my giving one day's notice. I attended in court on the 25th, that being the first court day after the necessary time of notice, and presented the power of attorney with a letter, requesting administration, whereupon I was sworn, and being asked whether I was aware of letters of administration having been taken out in England by John Hervey, the father of the deceased, I said I was not. I was then asked if this was a *bonâ fide* application. I said that it was so by me on behalf of John Hervey. The judicial assessor replied, that he had no doubt of that; but was it a *bonâ fide* power of attorney. I requested him to explain his meaning. He said, "Was it a power *bonâ fide* from John Hervey, the father of the deceased, or had he been made use of to serve the purposes of other parties." My reply was the presentation of the letter (Enclosure, No. 2), forwarding the power; upon reading which he said, that it was just exactly what he thought; it was evident that Messrs. Forster & Smith had induced John Hervey to send the power of attorney to serve their own purposes, by getting the estate into the hands of their own agent, and that it was his duty to prevent creditors getting administration of estates, as there had been lately two cases at Accra where such had been the case, and the result was, that the other creditors got nothing. He then declined to grant me administration upon the following grounds, which he assigned;

1st. Because

Mr. Fitzpatrick to Mr. Cruickshank, 22 June 1853.

Nos. 2 and 3.

No. 4.—Mr. Cruickshank to Mr. Fitzpatrick, 19 July 1853.

No. 5.—The Assessor's Clerk to Mr. Cruickshank, 21 July 1853.

No. 6.—Mr. Cruickshank to Mr. Fitzpatrick, 25 July 1853.

1st. Because letters of administration could not be granted to an attorney for the next of kin to a deceased person, unless the next of kin had himself previously taken out letters of administration.

2d. Because he (the judicial assessor) did not consider this power of attorney a *bonâ fide* power, being granted at the instigation of Messrs. Forster & Smith, creditors of the estate, and deeply interested in getting the management of it into the hands of their agent; and he was confirmed in this view of the case by the letter accompanying the power, of which the first words are, "By the request and advice of Messrs. Forster & Smith," and which corresponded with the sentiments expressed in a letter, which he himself had received from Messrs. Forster & Smith, and in which they had stated that their agent would have a right to the management of the estates. Upon this I desired a protest to be noted against his decision, for which, on the 26th, I recorded the following reasons:

First. Because the judicial assessor was not justified in assuming that letters of administration had not been taken out by John Hervey, from the circumstance of my not having been informed of the fact, the presumption fairly being that a man who had gone to the trouble and expense of having made and sent to me a power of attorney for a special purpose, would have taken care that the other legal steps necessary to make it of any use were not neglected.

Second. Because the judicial assessor is not justified in assuming the power of attorney to be not a *bonâ fide* instrument, because the letter enclosing it commences, "By the request and advice of Messrs. Forster & Smith," inasmuch as the letter which the judicial assessor read throughout contained requests, which evidently had been never dictated by Messrs. Forster & Smith; such as, "I ask you to favour me with a letter now and then to say how you are getting on." "I would also take leave to say that in the event of James Sinclair's intending to remain in the country that you will employ him under yourself, if there be need for his services. Send my late son's best clothes packed in a trunk or two, with his watch, chain and seals, as well as the best of his books," and other requests of a similar nature.

Third. Because the concurrence of the father of the deceased with Messrs. Forster & Smith, who are creditors of the estate to the amount of 5,500 *l.* and upwards, in confiding to me their interests in the estate by powers of attorney, is the strongest argument that could be adduced for the administration being granted to me.

Fourth. Because, if the judicial assessor's very great anxiety for the interests of the minor creditors (whose claims are trifling in comparison with Messrs. Forster & Smith) would not permit him to grant me administration, it would have been a simple matter, and would have met the wishes of the father of the deceased and the principal creditors, to take from me a bond to the full value of the minor claims, as a security for my faithful administration, seeing that those most deeply interested were not afraid to confide their interests to my integrity.

Fifth. Because the Hon. James Coleman Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor, has a personal interest in withholding administration from me, inasmuch as he himself is at the present time in illegal possession of the estate.

For all which I did and do enter my most solemn protest and appeal.

(signed) *B. Cruickshank*,
for *John Hervey*,
Attorney.

His Grace,
The Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

On this day I addressed a note to the assessor's clerk, requesting to be furnished with the names of the claimants on the estate, with the amount of their claims (Enclosure 7). His reply (Enclosure 8) leaves me to infer that it is all the answer I am to expect; at all events, as it is of much consequence that this communication should be transmitted by the first steamer, I cannot wait for any other; but during a conversation which I had with Mr. Fitzpatrick, on my arrival in the country, in reference to Mr. Hervey's estate, he informed me that the whole of the claims against it, exclusive of Messrs. Forster & Smith, were about 1,000 *l.*, of which, he added, about 500 *l.* were due to Mr. Sandeman, which he said he supposed was the same as Messrs. Forster & Smith; and in this supposition he was perfectly correct, as Mr. Sandeman is winding up his own affairs on behalf of Messrs. Forster & Smith, and subject to my control. This would make the sum total of all the claims not represented by me to be about 900 *l.*, or thereabouts, while the gross claims upon the estate are 6,500 *l.* and upwards.

No. 7.—Mr. Cruickshank to Mr. Fitzpatrick's Clerk, 27 July 1853.
The Assessor's Clerk to Mr. Cruickshank, 27 July 1853.

3. It would appear that Mr. Fitzpatrick, in this case, as in the matter of Mr. Clouston's estate, which I had the honour of bringing before your Grace on the 26th, has assumed the right to administer the estate, without any application from the creditors, by virtue of the Sierra Leone Ordinance (already referred to, and enclosed in my former communication), which I need scarcely observe, confers no powers upon him whatever; and it would be an insult to Mr. Fitzpatrick's judgment to suppose him ignorant of this after perusing it.

4. His refusal to grant me letters of administration, as John Hervey's attorney, upon a point of law, is a subject more properly referable to a law court than your Grace. The law

which he laid down (and he is the only lawyer here) may very probably be right, viz., that there must be proof of letters of administration having been taken out by the next of kin, before the attorney of the next of kin could get letters to act for him. His second ground of refusal, however, is preposterous under the circumstances of the present case. It was necessary that Messrs. Forster & Smith should take some steps to protect their interests in Mr. Hervey's estate; and what more open, honourable, and legal course could they have taken than by applying to the father of the deceased for a power of attorney to a person in whom they had confidence? and what more consistent with honest principles than that the father should confer his legal rights upon another, at the request of gentlemen who had so liberally supplied his son with capital to commence and conduct a business? With the knowledge which the judicial assessor had, that Messrs. Forster & Smith's claims upon the estate, with the exception of about 500 *l.*, for which I could have given a bond, the letter of the late Mr. Hervey's father alone, without a power of attorney, should have been sufficient, if the interests of those having claims upon the estate has been his sole care. To resist me in the administration, under the circumstances, upon the plea of a legal informality, was a most wretched excuse.

5. This intermeddling will, doubtless, form the subject of law proceedings in England, and protests have been noted with this view. On this account I should not have troubled your Grace with the present case at all, were it not that it is in your Grace's power still to protect the creditors in some measure. The 23d enactment of the Sierra Leone Ordinance authorises the receiver of unrepresented estates to keep possession of the money received from an estate, for eight months after entering upon administration, before any payment of the claims of the creditors is made. As Mr. Fitzpatrick has used this Ordinance as his authority, and only complied with such of its enactments as suited himself, it is very probable that this may be one to his liking; but it is in your Grace's power to prevent this serious delay, and I have the honour most respectfully to request that your Grace may be pleased to take such measures as may seem most conducive to this end.

6. Some time after Mr. Fitzpatrick had received my communication to your Grace of the 26th, his clerk went round to most of the merchants with a circular for their signatures. The purport of this circular, and the words, as nearly as can be remembered by one of the persons applied to, were, "We, the undersigned merchants, do hereby certify that it is to the general advantage of the creditors that unrepresented estates should be administered by an official person in preference to an attorney of the highest creditors;" and I am aware of a caution having been given by the clerk to the person applied to, not to mention the circumstance of the circular if the opinion was adverse; the meaning of which caution no doubt was, that if the judicial assessor failed in obtaining a document to suit his purpose, it might not be known that the opinions were adverse. But the proposition was not fairly stated. It should have run, not that "unrepresented estates should be administered by an official person in preference to an attorney for the highest creditor," but "that estates should be administered by an assignee appointed at a general meeting of the creditors, which assignee, as well as the creditors appointing him, were legally responsible to the representatives of the deceased for the faithful administration of the estate to an official person unacquainted with trade," as commercial business is here called. This is a question which ought to be canvassed and discussed fully, fairly, and openly, instead of surreptitiously attempting to surprise men into an opinion upon it. I have been told, I know not how correctly, that only one person signed the circular, which certainly, seeing that it came with all the appearance of being a quiet canvass for opinions from a person in Mr. Fitzpatrick's influential position of Acting Governor and Chief Justice, did not give him the assurance of much approval in public opinion for his late proceedings. Without expressing any opinion upon this very questionable step, it would seem to indicate that Mr. Fitzpatrick's faith in the protection of the Sierra Leone Ordinance was beginning to fail him. It was a proceeding, however, on his part, which might have led to serious consequences to some of the persons applied to if they had assented to the views expressed in the circular, and an enactment had in consequence been made. The trade here is chiefly carried on by credits given by merchants in England, and most of the merchants here are natives, some of whom might have signed it in awe of the quarter from which it proceeded, especially as they were taken one by one, and had not time to reflect or to see the whole of the bearings of the question. One of the consequences would soon have been seen in the stoppage of any further credits from England, and the winding up of accounts without waiting for the debtor's death, thus striking at the foundation of all enterprise among the people of the country.

7. I transmit this letter in the usual manner through the Acting Governor.

Sub-Enclosure 9.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Cruickshank.*

Sub-Enclosure 1,

Sub-Enclosure 1, to Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Cape Coast Castle, 22 June 1853.

Sir,

I beg to inform you that it is not my intention to call any meeting of the creditors of the late Mr. Hervey. Those who prove debts against his estate shall be paid rateably according to the degree of their debts, on the assets being realised, which I expect shall be in August next. Sub-Encl. 1, to Encl. 3, in No. 4

I am, &c.

The Hon. B. Cruickshank. (signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

Sub-Enclosure 2, to Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Muksetter Harray, Kirkwall, Orkney,
15 June 1853.

Sir,

By the request and advice of Messrs. Forster & Smith, I have this day executed a power of attorney in your favour, to act for me in winding up my late son's estate. I trust you will be kind enough to do so, and endeavour to get it done with the least possible delay. May I ask you to favour me with a letter now and then during the course of your proceedings with it, saying how you are getting on. Sub-Encl. 2, to Encl. 3, in No. 4

I would also take leave to say, that in the event of James Sinclair's intending to remain in the country, that you will employ him under yourself, if there be need for his services; and in the event of his coming home, I would ask as a favour to send by him some of my late son's best clothes, packed in a trunk or two, together with his watch, chain and seals, which he may have had at the time of his death, as well as the best of his books, as I would like to get a few things to keep in remembrance of him. Should Sinclair be remaining, perhaps you will be kind enough to forward them by one of the best of Messrs. Forster & Smith's captains, asking him to take the trouble to get them passed through the Custom-house in London, and take them to his own house, when I will write to him how to forward them down here. His sisters appear to be very anxious to possess something of their late brother, and would feel much obliged to you to pack in the trunks with his clothes his dressing-glass which he used at Accra, if you think it can be done with safety.

I am, &c.

B. Cruickshank, Esq. (signed) *John Hervey.*

Sub-Enclosure 3, to Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

I, Joseph Clouston, of Nisthouse, in the parish of Harray, county of Orkney, do solemnly and sincerely declare, that I, this declarant, and William Sinclair, merchant of Kirkwall, were present at the execution of the paper writing or power of attorney hereunto annexed, bearing date the 15th day of June 1853, by John Hervey, the constituent party therein named and described, and did see the said John Hervey sign, seal, and as his act and deed, in due form of law, deliver the same; and the name or signature John Hervey, set and subscribed to the said power of attorney, as the name or signature of the party executing the same, is of the proper handwriting of the said John Hervey; and the name or signature J. Clouston and William Sinclair appearing as the names or signatures of the witnesses to the execution of the said power of attorney, are of the respective handwriting of the said William Sinclair and of me, this declarant; and I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the 4th, intituled An Act to repeal an Act of the present session of Parliament, intituled an Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations, taken and made in various departments of the state, and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof, and for the more entire suppression of voluntary and extrajudicial oaths and affidavits, and to make other provisions for the abolition of unnecessary oaths. Sub-Encl. 3, to Encl. 3, in No. 4

(signed) *J. Clouston.*

Declared at Bin Scarth, Orkney, this 15th day of June 1853, before me,

(signed) *Robert Scarth,*
Justice of the Peace, County of Orkney.

Sub-Enclosure 4, to Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Sir, Cape Coast, 19 July 1853.

Sub-Encl. 4, to Encl. 3, in No. 4. I HAVE the honour to enclose for your information a power of attorney granted to me by John Hervey, father of James Hervey, deceased, and in consequence of the powers conferred upon me by this instrument, I have to request that you will, with as little delay as possible, put me in possession of the estate of the deceased James Hervey.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Cruickshank.*

The Honourable J. C. Fitzpatrick,
Judicial Assessor,
&c. &c. &c.

To all to whom these presents shall come, I, John Hervey, of the Orkneys, gentleman, send, greeting. Whereas my son, James Hervey, late of Cape Coast and Accra, merchant, departed this life on or about the 19th April 1853, intestate, and I am desirous, as his father and next of kin, of appointing Brodie Cruickshank, of Cape Coast, esquire, to be my true and lawful attorney, to act for me in obtaining letters of administration to the estate and effects of my said late son, the said James Hervey, deceased, and otherwise acting in relation to his estate and effects as herein mentioned: Now therefore know ye and these presents witness that I, the said John Hervey, do make, nominate, constitute, and appoint the said Brodie Cruickshank to be my true and lawful attorney, to act in relation to the estate of the said James Hervey, deceased, and for that purpose I do authorise and empower my said attorney for me, and in my name or otherwise, and for my use, to appear before all and every or any ecclesiastical or other court, or other tribunal or authority in Cape Coast aforesaid, or elsewhere, competent in the premises, and to solicit, obtain and take out, or concur in obtaining and taking out letters of administration of all and singular the goods, chattels, rights, credits, estate, and effects of the said James Hervey, deceased, within the respective jurisdictions of the court or courts in which such administration shall be granted, and for that purpose to appoint one or more proctor or proctors, and to make, sign, and execute all such other acts, deeds, bonds, documents, matters, and things whatsoever, as may be necessary for obtaining such letters of administration as aforesaid: And also as well before as after such letters of administration shall be obtained, for me and in my name, to act in the collecting, getting in, managing, and disposal of the estate and effects of the said James Hervey, deceased, with all the several powers and authorities herein contained as my said attorney may from time to time think proper: And for me, and in my name, or in the name of my said attorney or otherwise as may be requisite, but for my use and benefit, and on my behalf, to call to account, ask, demand, take possession of, sue for, and recover and receive, and from all and every persons and person whomsoever, bodies politic or corporate, in Cape Coast and Accra respectively and elsewhere in Africa, whom it doth, shall, or may concern, or who are, or is or shall or may be liable thereto, the payment and delivery of all and every the sum and sums of money, debts, bonds, bills, notes, shares or other securities, goods, effects and things, which are, is or shall or may be due, owing or payable, transferable, deliverable or belonging to the estate of the said James Hervey, deceased, or to me as such next of kin and administrator as aforesaid, by virtue of any security or securities, or upon any balance of accounts or otherwise howsoever; and on payment, transfer or delivery thereof, or of any part thereof respectively, to give, sign and execute receipts, acquittances, releases or other discharges for the same respectively; and on non-payment, non-transfer or non-delivery thereof, or of any part thereof respectively, to bring, commence, carry on and prosecute any action, suit or other proceeding whatsoever for recovering and compelling the payment, transfer or delivery of the same respectively; and also to sell, assign, transfer and indorse any stocks or funds, bonds or paper, bills, notes, shares or other securities whatsoever, to which I as such next of kin and administrator of the said James Hervey, deceased, as aforesaid, am or may be entitled, and to receive and give good and effectual and sufficient receipts and discharges for any interest, dividends or profits due or to arise or become due thereon, or on any part thereof previously to such sale and transfer; and also to sell and convert into money any goods, effects or things which now are or shall hereafter belong to the estate of the said James Hervey, deceased, or to me as such next of kin and administrator as aforesaid; and to appear for and represent me as such next of kin and administrator as aforesaid in any court or courts of law or equity, or other court, or before any minister or magistrate whatsoever at Cape Coast and Accra and elsewhere in Africa, as my said attorney may think proper or necessary; and for all and any of the purposes aforesaid to use my name, and generally to do, execute and perform any other act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever relative to the premises as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes as I myself could do if I were personally present and did the same; and for the more effectually doing, executing and performing of all and every or any of the matters and things aforesaid, I, the said John Hervey, do hereby give and grant unto my said attorney full power and authority from time to time to substitute and appoint, and in his place and stead to put one or more person or persons to do, execute and perform all or any of the matters and things aforesaid, and the same person or persons at pleasure again to remove another or others in his or their place or places to substitute; and all and whatever the said Brodie Cruickshank, or his substitutes

or

or substitute shall lawfully do or cause to be done in or about the premises, I, the said John Hervey, do hereby promise and agree for myself, my executors and administrators, and for the personal representative for the time being of the estate of the late James Hervey, deceased, to allow, ratify and confirm.

In witness, &c. this 15 June 1853.

(signed) *John Hervey.*

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of

(signed) *J. Clouston,*
Residing at Nisthouse Harray.

(signed) *Wm. Sinclair,*
Merchant, Kirkwall.

Sub-Enclosure 5, to Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 21 July 1853.

I AM directed by the Honourable the Judicial Assessor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, accompanying a power of attorney, which is hereby re-enclosed. Sub-Encl. 5, to Encl. 3, in No. 4

I am further directed to say, that at any time when the Court sits, an application will be received from you if you wish to make such respecting the estate of the late James Hervey, deceased, on your giving me one day's notice to that effect.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Brodie Cruickshank. (signed) *James B. Hanson,*
Clerk to the Judicial Assessor.

Sub-Enclosure 6, to Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Sir, Cape Coast, 25 July 1853.

I HAVE the honour to present to you, in your capacity of Acting Governor and Ordinary for the British Settlements on the Gold Coast, a power of attorney executed by John Hervey, of the Orkneys, father of the deceased James Hervey, of Accra, and to request that I may be furnished with letters of administration in accordance with the powers conferred upon me by this instrument. Sub-Encl. 6, to Encl. 3, in No. 4

I have, &c.

His Excellency J. C. Fitzpatrick. (signed) *B. Cruickshank,*
for *John Hervey,* as his Attorney.

Sub-Enclosure 7, to Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Sir, Cape Coast, 27 July 1853.

THE Judicial Assessor having refused to grant letters of administration to me in the matter of the late James Hervey's estate upon a point of law, I wish to know if I can be furnished with the name of the claimants upon his estate, with the amounts of their claims as far as can be at present ascertained, and if so, you will oblige me by sending me a list. Sub-Encl. 7, to Encl. 3, in No. 4

I have, &c.

Mr. J. B. Hanson, (signed) *B. Cruickshank,*
Clerk to the Judicial Assessor. for *John Hervey,* Attorney.

Sub-Enclosure 8, to Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Sir, Cape Coast, 27 July 1853.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, and to acquaint you, that I have not yet received any instructions with regard to the subject of that letter. Sub-Encl. 8, to Encl. 3, in No. 4

I am, &c.

The Hon. B. Cruickshank. (signed) *James Hanson,*
Clerk to the Judicial Assessor.

Sub-Enclosure 9, to Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Sir, Cape Coast, 27 July 1853.

Sub-Encl. 9, to Encl. 3, in No. 4.

I HAVE the honour to enclose an open communication of this day, which I have considered it my duty to address to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, and to request that your Excellency will be pleased to forward it by the first mail steamer.

I have, &c.

His Excellency J. C. Fitzpatrick, Acting Governor. (signed) *B. Cruickshank.*

— No. 5. —

No. 5.
F. Peel, Esq., M.P., to Governor Hill. 6 September 1853.

COPY of LETTER from *F. Peel*, Esq., M. P., to Governor *Hill*.

Sir, Downing-street, 6 September 1853.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to transmit to you copies of the letters noted in the margin, which have been received from parties in this country who are interested in the settlements on the Gold Coast, complaining of the conduct of Mr. Fitzpatrick in dealing with the property of persons who have died there. I am also to enclose a copy of a Despatch which was addressed to you subsequently to your quitting the Gold Coast, calling upon you to report what measures had been adopted for the future disposal of unrepresented estates. And I am to request that you will take these papers into your consideration, and furnish his Grace with a report of your opinion on the conduct of the judicial assessor, and the other questions therein raised.

Messrs. Forster and Smith, 17 June 1853.

Messrs. Forster and Smith, 29 July 1853.

Mr. A. Swanzy, 10 August 1853.

No. 34.—22 June 1853. *Vide* p. 2.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Peel.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 5.

My Lord Duke, New City Chambers, 17 June 1853.

Encl. 1, in No. 5.

WE regret having to call your Grace's attention to the following circumstances.

Mr. Charles Clouston, a merchant resident at Cape Coast with whom we were in commercial correspondence, and who held our power of attorney to act for us at the forts and settlements on the Gold Coast, where we have extensive business involving the advance of large sums on our part, died lately, leaving, as one of his executors, Mr. Hervey, of Accra. Mr. Hervey himself died shortly after, at Cape Coast, where he had gone to take possession of Mr. Clouston's property, leaving no will. Under these circumstances his own property and that of Mr. Clouston, which he held as his executor, was taken possession of by the judicial assessor, Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Both Mr. Clouston and Mr. Hervey owed us large sums of money at the time of their death, and had no relations resident on the coast of Africa. Their property, to which we look for payment of the balances due to us, and which should yield, after payment of all their debts, a residue for their families, in the case of Mr. Clouston a considerable residue, we believe, is entirely at the disposal of the judicial assessor; and we are much pained at having to say that, from what we are informed has occurred in similar cases, and what we are told in confidential letters is to be done in these, we view with great alarm, both on our own account and on that of Mr. Hervey's and Mr. Clouston's relatives, this power of the judicial assessor.

We are informed that he has in similar cases made exorbitant charges of commission on the sums collected by him; that he has, to entitle himself as he supposed to charge such commission, hurried the sale of the property in his hands, to anticipate the arrival of parties who would take it from his control; and we are informed that he contemplates a disposal of the property respecting which we are now addressing your Grace, that would be most improper and premature, and cannot be supposed to have been dictated by any prudent consideration of the interests of those concerned.

We must inform your Grace, for the proper appreciation of this matter, that at Cape Coast and Accra there are residing, as the principal merchants of the place, gentlemen whose commercial and friendly connexion with our house is notorious, any of whom would have undertaken charge of Mr. Hervey's and Mr. Clouston's property, under the surveillance of the judicial assessor, without charge; and from regard for the interests of those gentlemen's families and creditors, would have given to the management of these matters the benefit of the best commercial experience and intelligence, and highest personal integrity that the settlements could afford.

Mr.

Mr. Cruickshank, holding our power of attorney to act for us in all matters in which he may think his interference necessary, is now on his way to the forts; and we hope that he has succeeded in arresting the measures of the judicial assessor, respecting which we feel alarm.

Our object in thus bringing this very disagreeable subject under your Grace's notice, is that we may be informed (in time for taking measures in consequence of what we may thus learn before the departure of the next mail on the 23d) what authority the judicial assesssor has for taking charge of the property of intestate deceased persons, for selling it without previous communication with their friends and creditors, and for charging a commission on the proceeds; and also the hope that your Grace will caution the judicial assessor as to the prudent and disinterested management of any powers he may possess.

We have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c. (signed) *Forster & Smith.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 5.

My Lord Duke, New City Chambers, 29 July 1853.

With reference to the communication which we had the honour to address to your Grace on the 17th ultimo, on the subject of the powers assumed by the judicial assessor at Cape Coast Castle over the property of persons dying intestate there, and specially over the estates of two friends lately deceased, to which a reply was, by your Grace's direction, sent to us on the 21st ultimo by Mr. Peel, we have now again reluctantly to trespass on your Grace's time and attention on the same subject; recent advices from the Gold Coast having confirmed our worst apprehensions as to the steps which would be taken by Mr. Fitzpatrick, the officer in question, in dealing with the property which he had thus taken under his control. Encl. 2, in No. 5.

We beg to enclose copies (documents numbered 1 and 2) of all the information Mr. Fitzpatrick has thought fit to communicate to us relative to his transactions with this property; and your Grace will observe, by referring to Enclosure No. 2, that Mr. Fitzpatrick therein informs us, in terms inviting our admiration of his management, that one of the estates subject to his treatment will, he expects, under it realise 17*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. The judicial assessor could have adduced no more pregnant illustration of the mischief arising from his interference. Up to the time of his death the gentleman (Mr. Hervey), to whose property Mr. Fitzpatrick thus alludes, was in extensive business on the Gold Coast, in perfect credit for solvency and discretion, and never since the commencement of his connexion with us has anything occurred to inspire us with the least distrust of either; nor, we will venture to add, was there a single individual on the Gold Coast engaged in trade who did not entertain the same opinion on these points as ourselves; indeed a signal tribute to Mr. Hervey's qualifications, and a proof of the estimation in which he was held, are supplied by the fact of his being nominated in the will of Mr. Clouston, our late agent at Cape Coast, his executor, and consequently successor to him *ad interim* in the agency, as well as in the management of his own business; yet in spite of all these concurrent testimonies of his solvency, the judicial assessor eagerly on his decease seizing hold of his estate, and as recklessly dealing with it, so completely sacrifices the interests of all concerned in the faithful and judicious administration of the property, that 17*s.* 6*d.* in the pound is all they are told to expect on their claims.

We do not hesitate to declare to your Grace, that if no more than this dividend is realised, if the estate not only pays 20*s.* in the pound, but after doing so does not leave a surplus for the benefit of Mr. Hervey's relatives, we shall regard such a result of Mr. Fitzpatrick's management as a complete scandal to the local Government, and of the very worst tendency. Respecting his management of Mr. Clouston's estate, Mr. Fitzpatrick gives us no information whatever; from private sources we have that on which we rely for the unfavourable opinion we express of what he has therein done.

From the hasty and inconsiderate manner in which Mr. Fitzpatrick has already applied himself to the office of *ex-officio* executor to these estates, we see too much reason to apprehend that a most disastrous and unprofitable, because needless sacrifice will be made of each, for we would beg of your Grace to note the circumstances under which he has forced sales of the property belonging to them. Both Mr. Clouston and Mr. Hervey died within a very short time of each other, and when the whole country was disorganised and its trade completely at a stand still in consequence of the Ashantee invasion, of which, and of the the terrible, but happily temporary, convulsion which it produced, your Grace is already fully aware. Up to the latest advices received in London, trade had made but the very slightest approach towards recovery after the shock sustained by it owing to this irruption. The most ordinary discretion therefore would have suggested the impolicy of forcing goods upon the market at such a time; yet this was the very interval which Mr. Fitzpatrick, in the exercise of that "discretion" of which he informs us, selected for the purpose of disposing of a very large portion of the goods and other property belonging to these estates. The loss entailed on them thereby has of course been great, and at the same time wholly gratuitous; in all probability farther sacrifices will be made before they are wound up; and after this illustration of the manner in which Mr. Fitzpatrick exercises the discretionary,

but very comprehensive powers, which he says are vested in the judicial assessor, we respectfully appeal to your Grace, whether it be desirable that that functionary should hold them, for we can certainly only see but one benefit likely to arise from such conduct as Mr. Fitzpatrick's, viz., that with the example before them of how he deals with the affairs of intestates, all individuals with property to bequeath, and who have not already made testamentary disposal of it, will hasten to put it beyond his control by making their wills. This will no doubt be a salutary effect of his system; but it will in no degree redeem its character, nor in the least relieve the local Government from the odium attaching to that system.

It would appear, however, from Mr. Peel's letter to us that your Grace is not informed under what authority, or by whose sanction, Mr. Fitzpatrick exercises the important function assumed by him in matters of this description; as far as we can learn he has not received from the Legislative Council the authority on which your Grace supposed he must be acting, nor have we been able upon inquiry of those connected with the trade of the Gold Coast to make any discovery of the origin of his powers. Every one seems equally ignorant and equally alarmed on the subject. As it is understood that Mr. Fitzpatrick purposes in each case to charge a very heavy commission on the amount realised by him, however disadvantageously for the interests of those concerned he may have acted, and however unknown to and unsanctioned by them may have been his interference, it becomes of very vital importance to have his proceedings checked; and we therefore humbly, but earnestly, entreat your Grace to take such early measures as to your Grace shall seem meet for effecting this object. The objections to the judicial assessor's power to charge a commission in such cases are obvious and weighty, and we fear that very injurious constructions will be placed upon the indiscreet precipitancy which Mr. Fitzpatrick has exhibited in the disposal of property, which assuredly needed none of his interference or protection. We shall be very glad if, on receipt of our letters by the next African mail, we find reason to relax in our apprehensions of the progress of his proceedings, but our anticipations are in an opposite direction, and we have reason to believe that we are not the only persons who view his operations with alarm, have suffered, and are likely to suffer, from the excercise of the authority claimed by him.

The trade of the Gold Coast is entirely supported by credit from this country, there being little or no capital on the spot to conduct it, and we need not point out to your Grace the evil tendency of such proceedings in destroying confidence, by lessening the security of the home creditor in case of accident or death in a climate so inhospitable. In 40 years' extensive connexion with the trade of the Gold Coast, we have never before had occasion to make any similar complaint to that which we are now painfully called upon to make against the proceedings of Mr. Fitzpatrick, although, it is needless to add, in such a long experience, repeated instances have occurred similar to those in which he assumes his official intervention to be necessary.

We have, &c.

His Grace (signed) *Forster & Smith.*
The Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

(1.)

In the matter of the Estate of *James Hervey*, Esq., deceased, unrepresented.

Cape Coast Castle, 22 April 1853.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate of James Hervey, Esq., deceased, are hereby required to send the same in to the judicial assessor in three months from above date.

(By Order of the Court.)

(signed) *James M. Hansen,*
Clerk to the Judicial Assessor.

In the matter of the Estate of *Charles Clouston*, Esq., deceased, unrepresented.

Cape Coast Castle, 22 April 1853.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate of Charles Clouston, Esq., deceased, are hereby required to send the same in to the judicial assessor in three months from above date.

(By Order of the Court.)

(signed) *James M. Hansen,*
Clerk to the Judicial Assessor.

(2.)

Gentlemen, Accra, 31 May 1853.

I beg leave to enclose you a bill of lading for 7,108½ gallons of palm oil, shipped by me on board of the "Thomas Snook," and I have to request you will place the proceeds of the same to the credit of the estate of the late James Hervey, deceased. I also enclose you an order on Mr. Moffatt's shipment by the same vessel, for 2,961 gallons of palm oil, which you will please dispose of in the same manner. You are aware that it is part of my duty here to administer unrepresented estates, and as, fortunately for those interested in them, I am by usage entrusted with a good deal of discretion in the manner of realising the property, in the present instance I have exercised it somewhat freely owing to the present circumstances of the case, by entrusting about 2,000 *l.* worth of the late Mr. Hervey's goods to his late clerk, Mr. Sinclair, to be disposed of for palm oil within the next three months, so that by these means I expect to have the entire estate completely wound up within four months from this date; and as you are the principal creditors I am happy to be able to inform you, that I have every reason to believe that the estate will pay 17 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound. I shall feel obliged by your instructing the masters of any of your vessels likely to be here in the months of August or September next, to afford me what facilities they can in making shipments to you about that time.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick*,

Messrs. Forster & Smith. Judicial Assessor.

Enclosure 3, in No. 5.

My Lord Duke, 39, Clements-lane, London, 10 August 1853.

In consequence of the loss of my late brother and partner in business, Mr. Francis Swanzy, I proceeded to Cape Coast for the purpose of looking after our property; on my arrival at that place, I found all that property in the hands of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor, and I will briefly lay before your Grace the circumstances under which he interfered for its protection. Encl. 3, in No. 5.

My brother, on his leaving Cape Coast for England, left as his agent at that place, Mr. George Inglis, to carry on his business during his absence in England, and his wife, Mrs. Catherine Swanzy, also remained at Cape Coast.

In the month of January last, from the misconduct of Mr. Inglis, Mrs. Swanzy became anxious for the safety of her husband's property, and being unable to write herself, requested a Mr. Charles Clouston to write to Mr. Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor, to interfere for its protection, as also for the protection of herself personally, as she had been threatened with violence by Mr. Inglis. Upon this, Mr. Fitzpatrick, on or about the 5th January, proceeded to lock up the stores (or warehouses), containing a large amount of property belonging to us; caused Mr. Inglis to deliver up the gold in his possession, and also called on Mrs. F. Swanzy, and after repeated refusals on her part, at length induced her to deliver up what gold she had in her charge belonging to our firm.

In this state matters remained until the arrival of a vessel of ours at Cape Coast on or about the 20th February last, when, at the request of Mrs. F. Swanzy, one of the stores was opened under the charge of the master of that vessel for the purpose of trade, and also to receive the cargo of the vessel.

Shortly after my arrival at Cape Coast, which took place on the 24th February, I wrote to the judicial assessor requesting that the property might all be given up to me, and he, with the consent of Mrs. F. Swanzy, agreed to do so, and he then sent by his clerk what he termed the balance, after having charged the large sum of 394 *l.* 10 *s.* as commission, at the rate of 7½ per cent., on the plea that my brother's estate was unrepresented, and I will, with your Grace's permission, state that the said per-centage was charged as follows:

On goods uncounted and not valued by Mr. Fitzpatrick, locked up for six or seven weeks, during which the trade was flourishing, and the goods so locked up (to our great loss) were in great demand. — About 2,500 *l.* currency. These goods were counted and valued (at an arbitrary sale) on re-opening the stores.

On palm oil, shipped before the judicial assessor interfered at all, but of which he made out the bills of lading. — About 500 *l.*

On gold safely deposited in the hands of Mrs. Swanzy, who always had charge of the gold belonging to the firm in my brother's absence. — £.996. currency.

On gold and cash received by the judicial assessor from Mr. Inglis. — £.589.9.6.currency

And on some debts collected from persons in the immediate neighbourhood. — £.767. 7. currency

This balance I, of course, refused to accept, and begged His Excellency Governor Hill to interfere in the matter, and after some correspondence, Mr. Fitzpatrick agreed to receive the sum of 176 *l.* 8 *s.* 2 *d.* in lieu of 394 *l.* 10 *s.*, which I, not having the assistance of a legal adviser, paid.

This smaller amount was charged as commission, at 7½ per cent. on the three last-mentioned items on the other side, amounting to 2,352 *l.* 16 *s.* 6 *d.*, of which sum your Grace will observe 1,585 *l.* 9 *s.* 6 *d.* was handed to him in gold, cash, or bills.

I am not aware, my Lord Duke, whether the judicial assessor has a right to claim a per-centage, under any circumstances, on property administered by him in his official capacity, but I am informed he certainly had no right to claim any commission in this instance, as he was requested to interfere solely in his magisterial capacity, and with the exception of the debts collected by him, acted in no way as an administrator.

I cannot understand how the estate could be unrepresented; Mrs. F. Swanzy was residing at Cape Coast, and from the fact of Mr. Fitzpatrick's interfering solely at her request, I presume she was interested in the property. Mr. Fitzpatrick also knew that I was on my way to Cape Coast, and, in addition to these facts, I may state that we had in our employment clerks perfectly capable of taking charge of the property until my arrival.

My object, my Lord Duke, in thus addressing you is not so much to recover the sum paid, as to prevent any such charges for the future; had Mr. Fitzpatrick realised the property on which commission is charged, the objection to the charge would not have been so great.

When I left Cape Coast Mr. Fitzpatrick had taken possession of the estates of two gentlemen, deceased, and Mr. Fitzpatrick's conduct with reference to those estates was generally commented upon as being highly blameable, from the eager haste he displayed in disposing of the property appertaining to them at a time when trade was at a stand-still.

In my own case it is fortunate that Mr. Fitzpatrick did not then hold, as he now does, the office of Acting-Governor as well as judicial assessor, and that there was consequently a higher authority to refer to on the spot; the very fact of Mr. Fitzpatrick receiving less than half the sum originally charged by him will sufficiently prove to your Grace how unscrupulous Mr. Fitzpatrick is in his self-constituted character of administrator; and, my Lord Duke, I trust that as his Excellency Governor Hill is now in England, you will make some inquiries into the circumstances of this charge, and, if it be unjust, cause the sum retained by Mr. Fitzpatrick to be returned to me, and, what is of more importance, prevent a recurrence of such a disgraceful transaction for the future.

I may also remark, my Lord Duke, that respectable merchants would always be willing to take charge, and in an efficient manner dispose of any property of deceased persons, at a much lower per-centage than that charged by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

I may be permitted to add, that it is usual for men of business not only to give their services gratuitously to one another in cases of emergency, but also to devote a great portion of their time when called for to the service of the Government business, as is well known to Major Hill.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle. (signed) *A. Swanzy.*

— No. 6. —

No. 6.
Lieut.-Governor Cruickshank to the Duke of Newcastle.
7 September 1853.

(No. 72.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Cruickshank* to the Duke of *Newcastle.*

Cape Coast Castle, 7 September 1853.
(Received, 24 October 1853.)
(Answered, No. 65, 24 November 1853, page 51.)

My Lord Duke,

20 August 1853.
29 August 1853.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a petition addressed to Major Hill by the king, chiefs, captains, and others of Cape Coast, which was enclosed to me in a letter from four of the native merchants of this place, who style themselves the representatives of the town.

2. Your Grace will perceive that this petition is most numerously signed; indeed it contains the names of almost every person of the greatest and smallest importance in the place.

3. In consequence of the third paragraph of the letter enclosing it, and the general excitement which appeared to prevail on the subject, I considered it necessary to address immediately a letter to the persons who had forwarded to me the petition, warning them of the danger of refusing to appear in Court before Mr. Fitzpatrick.

4. The excitement was quieted for a time, but only on the promise given by me that I would take the prayer of their petition in reference to the immediate cessation of Mr. Fitzpatrick's judicial functions into consideration upon an early day.

5. Frequent applications were made (and at last in a very tumultuous manner) that I would make no longer any delay in coming to a determination upon the

the subject, which induced me to appoint a meeting in the Castle, where the petitioners should meet Mr. Fitzpatrick face to face.

6. This meeting took place yesterday, and was attended by all the principal men of the town, including the native merchants. I called out many of the names at the foot of the petition, with the view of ascertaining how far it might be regarded as an authentic and *boná fide* document truly representing the sentiments expressed in it. Some had particular grounds of complaint; others, and those the greater number, had signed it on account of a general feeling of dissatisfaction with Mr. Fitzpatrick for his disrespectful treatment of their king. Many other special charges were made at the same time, having reference to his judicial acts; but these were in every respect absurd and frivolous, and with the exception, perhaps, of an over-severity in the amount of the fines imposed, afforded no just ground of complaint; and even in such cases, the cause of the fine was of a nature deserving the highest penalty of the law. By this standard Mr. Fitzpatrick had measured the penalty, giving the defaulters credit for more riches than they possessed. But nothing could have been more honourable to him than the open exposure of his numerous acts of inflexible justice.

7. I do not consider it necessary to remark in detail upon the various charges referred to in the petition. It contains a good deal of exaggeration, like all documents of the kind proceeding from the people here, and much of it has already been brought under the notice of the Secretary for the Colonies at one time or another, without weakening confidence in Mr. Fitzpatrick's justice, honour, and integrity.

8. With reference to the suggestion contained at the close of the petition respecting the appointment of two native Commissioners, I must distinctly express an opinion altogether opposed to the wishes of the petitioners. Mr. Fitzpatrick attributes the present clamour against him to the intrigues of the four native merchants who forward this petition, and who style themselves the representatives of the town; and it is no doubt with an eye to the appointment of two of themselves that this suggestion has been made. Although I have reason to believe the feeling against him much more extensive, and arising from other causes, yet I do not doubt that it has been aided by their means. Since my return to the coast, I have been much struck with the change which seems to me to have taken place in reference to the extent of the right of the Government to interfere with native laws and practices. Many which had been abolished are again springing up, and this has only taken place since those persons began to take a leading in the town. They would appear anxious to receive all the countenance and protection from the Government possible, and at the same time to exclude the British authorities from any control over their affairs. I therefore consider that it would be very much against the advancement of the interests of the country that any such tribunes be recognised.

9. Whether through the intrigues of these persons or not, the excitement against Mr. Fitzpatrick is so great that it would be impossible for him, in their present temper, to continue in the discharge of his duties without a collision between the Government and the natives of the town, which would lead to very disastrous consequences. It would not be a difficult matter to force obedience, but it would be at the point of the bayonet; and I cannot reconcile myself to the idea of commencing my temporary administration of the Government in this manner, especially as I am satisfied that I can, by the exercise of a little prudent discretion, restore affairs to their former state.

10. Under these circumstances, I have taken upon myself the responsibility of granting Mr. Fitzpatrick leave of absence until your Grace's pleasure be known. I intend that during this time he should enjoy the full emoluments of his office, and have preferred adopting this course to a temporary suspension, which might injure his prospects.

11. I attribute what has now become a rooted antipathy to Mr. Fitzpatrick chiefly to an ungracious manner in his intercourse with the native chiefs and headmen; to a disregard of their peculiarities, and to a contempt, not concealed, of their dignitaries. I think also that he has in some measure mistaken the extent of his powers as the assessor of the chiefs, forcing obedience to his

views with a full exercise of supreme authority, instead of gaining for them a gradual assent. His enlightened views, moreover, being far in advance of the ideas of the natives in all points touching their social and political institutions, he has shared the fate of all reformers in now meeting with persecution.

12. I certainly should not have yielded to any public clamour if I had not been convinced in my own mind that the natives believed they had grievances to complain of in the manner of their treatment. It was to me a most painful duty to feel myself compelled, by a regard to the interests of the country at large, to deprive the Government of this place, even temporarily, of the services of a man of Mr. Fitzpatrick's firmness and sagacity. But I hope that your Grace will approve of what I have done, as without some measure of the kind it would have been impossible to gain the operation of the natives in any useful measure, whilst an officer to whom they had shown such a decided hostility was retained in authority.

13. I consider the protest forwarded to the judicial assessor in reference to insolvent debtors, was hastily and improperly entered by the merchants, as there was no reason to suppose that he had any intention of introducing here the English Insolvent Debtors' Act. The assessor has at all times exercised a wise discretion in releasing hopeless debtors.

14. Captain M'Court, the assistant judicial assessor, will perform the duties *ad interim*.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Cruickshank*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 1, in No. 6.

His Excellency Governor *Hill*, &c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1, in No. 6. The humble petition of the chiefs, caboceers, pynins, captains of quarters, and principal men representing the town of Cape Coast, the head quarters of the British settlements on the Gold Coast, respectfully showeth:

1. That your petitioners deeply regret to have to complain again of the Hon. James Coleman Fitzpatrick, who, since his appointment to the office of judicial assessor to this country, has exhibited in numerous instances a line of conduct calculated to bring this country into collision with the local government, to do away with that good understanding which had existed between them for time immemorial, and to undo all the good that has been done by the British Government here for so many years; a proof of this melancholy fact was exemplified in 1850 in his tyrannical treatment towards the people of Annamaboe, which aroused the indignation of the populace against him, whose behaviour towards him on that occasion cast a great reflection upon his character. This might have led to disastrous results, had it not been for the interference of the late Governor Winniett, who, from the nature of the case, disallowed the monstrous fine of 100 oz. of gold dust, which he, Mr. Fitzpatrick, had imposed upon them for the usage he had received from them.

2. That on reference to certain correspondence from the late Francis Swanzy, Esq., to the Colonial-office in 1850-51, respecting the misdoing of Mr. Fitzpatrick, especially the unparalleled cruelties and oppression which the chief Bahynee, of Appolonia, and his people suffered from his hands, as set forth in that correspondence, it will be seen at large to what an awful extent he abused the authority vested in him as Governor and Judge of these settlements during the period already adverted to.

3. That your petitioners not only have had impassive demonstrations, but woful experience, of his tyranny and despotism in endeavouring by coercive measures to abolish the civil rights, institutions and innocent customs of this country in his offering, on many occasions, indignities to the native sovereigns and chiefs; in his treating with contempt and falsely imprisoning respectable members of the community for the purpose of putting a slur upon them, so as to destroy their influence and usefulness, as illustrated by the representation on record made against him in 1851 by the late Charles Clouston, Esq., to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

4. That your petitioners feeling their grievance to be intolerable, with the advice and consent of their late king, Joe Aggry, represented their case to the late Governor Winniett, with a prayer, that for the peace of these settlements Mr. Fitzpatrick should be removed from the assessorship, as from his general deportment he exceeds his instructions as judicial assessor,

assessor, and actually defeats the good and humane object which your petitioners have reason to believe Her Majesty's Government have in view, with reference to the civilization of the people of these settlements.

5. That Mr. Fitzpatrick having in consequence of this complaint been reprimanded by Governor Winniett, his ill-behaviour was overlooked by your petitioners, being satisfied that the several complaints that had already been preferred against him had been taken notice of by the authorities in Downing-street, and which resulted in his being deprived by them of the dormant commission he had been honoured with to assume the reins of government, in the event of the death of the Governor, or his absence from his government, and which commission was transferred to the Hon. James Bannerman, of Accra.

6. That during Mr. Fitzpatrick's temporary absence in England, and when by your Excellency's direction and support, the duties of the judicial assessor's department were carried on by magistrates, the country enjoyed that peace and tranquillity which it had lost ever since Mr. Fitzpatrick came into office.

7. That on his return to this country he resumed his duties, he has become more arbitrary and arrogant, and presumes needlessly and unwarrantably to interfere with the native constituted authority, and the prerogative of the native kings and chiefs, which had never been resigned by them by any treaty or agreement with the government.

8. That to bring about his views of suppressing this prerogative, he looks upon Coffee Amissah, the king of this town, takes every opportunity of abusing and scandalising him publicly, threatens his deposition, and ultimately, to crown the whole, did on the 8th instant he, Mr. Fitzpatrick, conspired with a man, as was proved in evidence, who had been imprisoned by Coffee Amissah for threatening to commit self destruction, to sue the said Coffee Amissah, the king, for "false imprisonment," with a view to expose him to the displeasure of the government, and to inflict upon him a severe punishment, under the belief that he should be found guilty of the charge by the jury.

9. That for such unprecedented insult and affront which has been offered to the king of Cape Coast, the representative of this town, the head quarters of the British settlements on this coast, the king to be arraigned like a common malefactor, at the instigation of a malicious and corrupt European judge, your petitioners feel themselves now called upon to represent their grievance to your Excellency, the highest authority in this place, and earnestly, sincerely, and solemnly request, that on your Excellency's receipt of this, their petition, to cause the Honourable James Coleman Fitzpatrick's connexion with the country as judicial assessor to cease altogether, as your petitioners are unanimously and decidedly of opinion that this is the only alternative by which a collision can be prevented between this country and the government, whose respect and good will it is their interest to study as long as Great Britain retains the possession of her forts and settlements on the Gold Coast.

10. That your petitioners respectfully solicit your Excellency to transmit by the first opportunity an entire copy (not an extract) of this petition to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, for his Grace's information, so as to appoint a new officer of justice to this country, an auxiliary that will better assist the native sovereigns and chiefs in carrying out the views of government.

11. That your petitioners having from sad experience felt, and do feel, the evil of a lawyer filling the situation of judicial assessor in a land as this, where there is not another person of a legal education to resort to for legal opinion, and that the people of this country are at this rate entirely at the mercy of the assessor, who will not be wanting in finding laws for individuals suitable to the prejudices he may have for or against them, as has been the practice of Mr. Fitzpatrick here, your petitioners humbly request that your Excellency will bring it under the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the necessity of remedying the evil by providing the means of protecting the people against the assessor, who may be disposed to injure those he may have brought up before him. That although the English law is not known in this country, and consequently it does not require legal persons to practise here as attorneys, yet for the benefit of the public, your petitioners beg to suggest that his Grace will sanction the appointment of Commissioners of two responsible educated natives, who are acquainted with the habits and customs of the people, to afford them the assistance they require, when they have causes of vital importance to settle in the assessor's court. And your petitioners in duty bound will ever pray.

I heartily concur in the sentiments and wishes of the petitioners.

(signed) *Coffee Amissah*,
King of Cape Coast,
and 109 others.

Cape Coast, 20 August 1853.

Enclosure 2, in No. 6.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 29 August 1853.

Encl. 2, in No. 6. A PETITION from the chiefs, cabboceers, pynins, and headmen of Cape Coast, dated the 20th day of August 1853, which was intended to be presented to his Excellency Governor S. J. Hill, of the Gold Coast settlements, who was expected here by the last steamer ("Hope"), having been handed to us by them, as the chosen representatives of this town, with an earnest request that we present it to your Excellency, Her Majesty's Lieutenant-Governor, who has now assumed the reigns of government in those settlements in the absence of Major Hill, we beg leave respectfully to enclose, in compliance with the desire of the people, the said petition to your Excellency.

2. It being desirable that the influence of the protectorate of Great Britain in this country should at all times be duly appreciated and respected, and not to be looked upon with suspicion and dread by the natives here, as they now begin to do, from Mr. Fitzpatrick's conduct towards them, as set forth in their petition, we humbly solicit your Excellency to give your kind and best attention to the prayer of the petitioners.

3. We deem it necessary also to mention that the people have come to the conclusion not to appear in the police court from this day before Mr. Fitzpatrick, to have their palavers settled by him, till your Excellency be pleased to appoint whomsoever you think fit to act as judicial assessor *ad interim* until the pleasure of his Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies be known.

Sub-Enclosure 1. Sub-Enclosure 2. 4. We beg leave further to enclose copy of a notice, dated 18th August 1853, from Mr. Fitzpatrick to debtor prisoners in gaol at Fort William, which called for a protest (copy whereof we enclose) from the merchants of this place and Annamaboe against Mr. Fitzpatrick's proceedings. Copies of these documents we request your Excellency to transmit, with that of the petition, to the Colonial Department.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Barnes.*
Joseph Smith.
Thomas Hughes.
William De Graff.

Lieutenant-Governor Cruickshank,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 1, to Enclosure 2, in No. 6.

Cape Coast Castle, 18 August 1853.

Sub-Encl. 1, to Encl. 2, in No. 6. NOTICE is hereby given to all insolvent debtors at present in confinement in the prison at Fort William, Cape Coast, that on Thursday next, the 25th instant, the judicial assessor will sit to hear applications for discharge. It is required first that each debtor shall give due notice to all his creditors to that effect, and that each debtor shall also bring with him into court a written statement of his present position, namely, a list of claims against him, and an exact account of his property, with an explanation of the manner in which he became involved.

It is further suggested, that such of the debtors as shall be unacquainted with the rules and forms usual in such cases shall employ an attorney to draw up their documents.

By order of the Court.

(signed) *James M. Hansen.*

Sub-Enclosure 2, to Enclosure 2, in No. 6.

Cape Coast, 25 August 1853.

Sub-Encl. 2, to Encl. 2, in No. 6. WE, the undersigned merchants and others of Cape Coast, having, from an indirect channel, seen notice, dated the 18th day of August 1853, privately given by the judicial assessor to the debtor prisoners confined in the gaol at Fort William, Cape Coast, instructing the said debtors to appear before him in the Police-court, at Cape Coast Castle, this 25th day of August, and then and there declare themselves insolvent, and thereupon to be discharged, our attention is called to the most disastrous results which this impolitic measure will produce in reference to commercial pursuits carried on in this country. When it is universally known that the judicial authorities that protect the merchants and traders of all classes in this country have opened a door for debtors to escape, as the judicial assessor has done, many a man who has been kept honest and upright from the fear of losing his liberty will in future become fraudulent when his interests are concerned, and the consequences will be obvious to all who know anything of this country; not only murder,

murder, panny arring, and seizures of all kinds will be resorted to by native creditors against their debtors, but that the commercial intercourse which has existed from time immemorial between Great Britain and the Gold Coast will be materially injured, if not utterly destroyed.

With these convictions upon our minds, we, the merchants, for the welfare of this country, and for the interest of the public at large, do most solemnly and sincerely protest against the proceedings of the Honourable James Coleman Fitzpatrick in his attempts to force upon the people of this country the law of insolvency, which is by no means applicable to them.

(signed) *Henry Barnes*, and 11 others.

The Honourable J. C. Fitzpatrick, Judicial Assessor.

No. 7.

No. 7.
Governor Hill to F. Peel, Esq., M.P.
9 September 1853.

EXTRACT of LETTER from Governor *Hill* to *F. Peel*, Esq., M. P.

Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, 9 September 1853.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your despatch* of the 6th instant, forwarding copies of letters from Messrs. Forster & Smith, and Mr. Swanzy, of London; also copy of a former despatch addressed to me by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, desiring I should furnish his Grace with a report of my opinion on the conduct of the judicial assessor, and the other questions therein raised.

* Page 24.

Agreeably to the Duke's request, I beg leave to state for his Grace's information, that Messrs. Clouston and Hervey, the merchants named by Messrs. Forster & Smith, died at Cape Coast, and as the estates of both were unrepresented, the judicial assessor, to ensure the safety of the property and that justice might be done to the creditors, took charge of the same, and I can, from personal observation, bear testimony to the great care taken by that officer, that the estates should be disposed of to the best advantage, and I believe I am correct in stating that the prices brought by the goods were remunerative, and instead of Messrs. Forster & Smith losing from the management of the judicial assessor, I feel satisfied they greatly benefited by a responsible and active public officer taking charge of those estates; and I therefore cannot but consider the complaint made against Mr. Fitzpatrick as uncalled for.

With respect to Mr. Swanzy's letter, I must confess I am not a little surprised to find a complaint made in such a quarter, as at the solicitation of that gentleman, I induced Mr. Fitzpatrick to forego his full claim on the property in question and he only charged the usual commission on the monies that actually passed through his hands, Mr. Swanzy pledging his word to me, that the matter should be considered as set at rest, and thanking me in writing for the satisfactory result of my interference.

It would appear by the letters of Messrs. Forster & Smith, with that of Mr. Swanzy, that those gentlemen expected a public officer should have the great responsibility and trouble of taking charge of valuable property, and receive no remuneration, in which opinion I cannot at all agree, as I am aware of the onerous labour thus imposed, particularly in a climate like the Gold Coast; and I venture to express an opinion, that had this unrepresented property been left to find a protector amongst the mercantile community of the Gold Coast, Messrs. Forster & Smith, as well as Mr. Swanzy, might have reason to complain of the want of attention to their interest on the part of the local government, and I am quite satisfied that Mr. Fitzpatrick will be enabled to give a good account of his stewardship, and satisfy his Grace that the best interest of the mercantile credit was studied by him, and carefully watched over by myself.

I regret to remark that Earl Grey's despatch* of the 6th February 1850, being a date anterior to my appointment, had not been brought under my notice during the period I was present at the head-quarters of my Government, and from the irregular manner the letters had been kept, I never saw the

* *Vide* Note, p. 2.

despatch in question, or I should have at once have attended to his Lordship's suggestion, as no law on the subject existing, the judicial assessor, *ex officio*, always took charge of unrepresented estates, charging the commission of 7 *l.* 10 *s.* per cent. under the authority of an Ordinance of the Sierra Leone Government during the period that the Gold Coast was a dependency of that colony.

As Messrs. Forster & Smith, with Mr. Swanzy, are, I believe, the largest shippers to the Gold Coast, and they have expressed so very strong an opinion against a public servant having charge of unrepresented property, and I cannot but consider it most desirable that an officer in the position of the chief justice should not be mixed up with the financial and pecuniary affairs of the mercantile body, I would respectfully suggest for the consideration of his Grace, that an Ordinance be passed, appointing a responsible merchant on the Gold Coast to the office of receiver of such estates, and allowing him such rate of percentage as his Grace may deem sufficient for the onerous duties imposed.

Begging his Grace will be pleased to accept the explanation I venture to offer on the subject submitted for my report, and acquit me of the charge of any want of attention to the best interest of all connected with the government under my charge,

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stephen J. Hill*, Governor,
Gold Coast.

— No. 8. —

(No. 74.)

No. 8.
Lieut.-Governor Cruickshank to the Duke of Newcastle.
10 September 1853.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Cruickshank* to the Duke of *Newcastle*.

Cape Coast Castle, 10 September 1853.

My Lord Duke, (Received, 24 October 1853.)

* Page 28.

IN my Despatch* No. 72, of 7th September, transmitting to your Grace the petition of the king and principal men of this place, I ought to have animadverted upon the last chief grievance complained of, the trial of the king, which seems to have filled up the measure of their indignation against Mr. Fitzpatrick, and to have roused them to the desperate resolution of refusing to appear before him in court, as soon as Governor Hill should have returned.

2. I do consider the manner of this trial both unprecedented and injudicious, and very likely to excite a sensitive people, tenacious of forms and usage. Hitherto the manner of dealing with a delinquent king or chief has been to summon him before the governor or assessor, to reason with him, to reprimand him, to fine him, or even to imprison him, as the case might seem to demand; or he has been tried by a jury of his peers, presided over by the governor or assessor; but to bring him to trial, as in the case in question, before a jury composed partly of his own subjects, and partly of Europeans, was, I do conceive, a great indignity. It was also injudicious. The charge against him was for false imprisonment. He had confined a man by "putting him in a log," as it is called, that is, fastening his wrist to a log of wood, by means of a staple, the principal mode of imprisonment in this country. It is often abused, and made the instrument of cruelty, and the judicious interference of the Government had greatly abated it; but by making it the subject of a trial, the formal acquittal of the king has given a new sanction to the practice, and tends to rebuild the native authority on points of this description, which were being allowed to fall into disuse.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Cruickshank.*

—No. 9.—

(No. 75.)

No. 9.
Lieut.-Governor Cruickshank to the Duke of Newcastle.
12 September 1853.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Cruickshank* to the Duke of *Newcastle*.

Cape Coast Castle, 12 September 1853.

My Lord Duke, (Received, 24 October 1853.)

IN transmitting the duplicate of the late Acting Governor's Despatch, No. 67,* of the 2d August, my attention has been drawn to several circumstances connected with it, which I think it proper to lay before your Grace.

* Page 2.

2. I do not wish to trouble your Grace with any particular refutation of Mr. Fitzpatrick's statements, which, even with the Enclosures with which he seeks to support them, do not appear to me to invalidate my charges against him. It is necessary, however, that I should briefly advert to the value of those Enclosures.

3. Enclosure 1 requires no comment. No. 2 is a certificate from Captain M'Court, stating that an application had been made to him by Mr. Hervey's clerk, to take possession of the property. This is only in accordance with the general practice, to have the property of a deceased person secured and sealed up by a Government officer; but there is a wide distinction in the Government giving its protection to this extent, and its chief judicial officer entering upon administration, and selling off the estate. This, I am aware, he could have done if the Governor had granted him letters of administration; and I was anxious to see Enclosure No. 3, which he states to be the sanction and approval of the Governor for his act. I did not find this Enclosure among the others; and upon inquiry of the Acting Colonial Secretary about it, I am informed that it cannot be found, and was not sent. Enclosure No. 4 can give Mr. Fitzpatrick no authority in the cases to which I refer. It is merely a similar application to that of Mr. Hervey's clerk, to secure the property in the absence of the owner. With regard to Mr. Firth's certificate (Enclosure No. 5), I should be sorry to characterise that document as it deserves, as it is very incorrect. The judicial assessor never has interfered with unrepresented property without an application having been made to him. Mr. Firth was in the country in 1848, when Mr. Johnson died, and on that occasion the judicial assessor did not interfere; and since Mr. Firth came to the country the property of no deceased merchant has been sold by the judicial assessor, except in the cases to which I have drawn your Grace's attention. With regard to the second paragraph of Mr. Firth's certificate, it is intended to convey a meaning which the payment of 7½ per cent. to him does not warrant; and of this Mr. Firth was perfectly aware, as I told him on what grounds I had given this per-centage. There was a house employed as a colonial hospital, and rented by the colonial Government. The owner of the house was absent; the rent was paid into the secretary's office, to be kept for him when he should apply for it. After a considerable time a power of attorney was sent to me from Sierra Leone, to sell the house, and to receive all the monies due to the proprietor for rent. I had not quite 100 *l.* to receive from the Colonial Secretary: in paying it over, he represented to me that he had been engaged collecting materials to make repairs upon the house, and had bought a considerable quantity of boards for this purpose, which had given him much trouble, and for which he ought to be paid. He received the per-centage for this trouble, in all not amounting to 7 *l.*, which was only a moderate compensation for his labour. Your Grace will perceive how little analogous this case is to those which I have complained of. If Mr. Fitzpatrick was the receiver of unrepresented estates, as he lately assumed to be, why did he not sell this house when Mr. Swanzy wrote to him on the subject. Enclosures No. 6 and 7 have reference to a litigation which took place in the country, respecting the property of a deceased native. The slave of the deceased man was assuming the right to hold the property of his late master when others interfered on behalf of the absent man, and applied to the judicial assessor. This is one of those cases which occur in court daily among the natives, the only difference being the absence of the heir. It was, in fact, an estate which fell into the administration of the Court by a decision

of that Court. Enclosure No. 8 has reference to the house employed as colonial hospital, referred to in Mr. Firth's certificate. This and the following Enclosure, No. 9, merely show that the custom here is to lodge realised funds of absent persons in the hands of a government officer, and that the Court has been chosen as the most convenient and safest place to lodge them.

4. In para. 8, Mr. Fitzpatrick pretends that he had the sanction of the native authorities for his proceedings in reference to these estates; I am surprised to see this argument advanced. The native authorities do not assume to have any control over an European property at all, under any circumstances. Neither does the native law give the native authorities any right to administer the unrepresented estate of a native. On the contrary, if they were to do so, they are made responsible for all the debts of the estate, and liable to heavy damages. The judicial assessor therefore could not derive an authority from the native chiefs not possessed by themselves. Both by original compact and continuous usage, the native authorities do not interfere in any matter purely having reference to Europeans.

5. There is only one point more to which I will refer. In para. 6, Mr. Fitzpatrick asserts that he did not give me the Sierra Leone Ordinance as his authority. Unless he had mentioned it, I had no knowledge of the Sierra Leone Ordinance whatever, and I again distinctly say, that when I asked him if he were acting by virtue of an Ordinance of the Legislative Council, he said "No, the Sierra Leone Ordinance." I do not mean to say that Mr. Fitzpatrick ever considered this an authority; but while its nature was unknown it served his purpose to allude to it. But it was notoriously known in the settlement that this was his alleged authority; and I believe Governor Hill left Cape Coast Castle under this impression; at least I have been informed by Messrs. Forster & Smith, the parties most interested in the estates, that it was Major Hill's opinion that Mr. Fitzpatrick would defend himself on the grounds of the Sierra Leone charter. I mention these facts to clear myself from the imputation of having made a misrepresentation to your Grace.

6. I now take leave of this very disagreeable subject; and in order that I may not hereafter be drawn into any similar contention while administering the Government, I have the honour to acquaint your Grace that I have resigned my appointment as agent for a mercantile house, in order that I may devote all my energies to the public service.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Cruickshank*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

(*Note.*—The Numbers of the Enclosures referred to in the above Despatch are all apparently misquoted.)

— No. 10. —

No. 10.
H. Merivale, Esq. to Governor Hill.
11 October 1853.

COPY of LETTER from *H. Merivale*, Esq., to Governor *Hill*.

Sir, Downing-street, 11 October 1853.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to inform you, that he has had under his consideration your letter* of the 9th of September, on the subject of the conduct of the judicial assessor in the management of certain unrepresented estates at the Gold Coast. Since the date of that letter, his Grace has also received two despatches from the judicial assessor, as Acting Governor, enclosing representations from Mr. Brodie Cruickshank, respecting the estates of Mr. Clouston and of Mr. Hervey, of which he has not thought it necessary to send you copies, but which are ready for your inspection whenever you may call at this office.

* Page 33.

2. The conclusions at which his Grace has arrived, from the perusal of these documents, together with those which had been previously before him, are as follows:

3. That he cannot pronounce, with propriety, any opinion respecting the conduct of the judicial assessor in the details of the administration of the estates

estates in question, because, in one or two instances at least, it appears that this conduct is about to become the subject of judicial investigation. His Grace only feels it due to the judicial assessor that he should express his belief that no charge of official misconduct or malversation is established by these papers against him.

4. It would be equally beyond the province of the Secretary of State to pronounce any judgment as to the legal powers of the assessor, which are, it appears, about to be, in a similar manner, made the subject of judicial investigation.

5. Thus much, however, is clearly admitted on all hands, that the Sierra Leone Ordinance, "to provide for the protection, &c. of unrepresented estates," is not of any legal force on the Gold Coast, and the amending ordinance of 11 March 1853, is of course equally inapplicable.

6. As far, therefore, as regards the administration of the estates of parties dying within British jurisdiction, his Grace is not aware on what ground the authority of the assessor would rest, no such ordinance as was recommended by Earl Grey having ever been enacted.

7. But with regard to English subjects dying out of the British dominions, but in territories over which Her Majesty has acquired a protecting authority, by treaty or usage, the case may be very different; and although this is not distinctly stated, the Duke of Newcastle apprehends that the decease of all parties whose cases are here reported, took place, in point of fact, out of the British dominions. In these cases it may be that the power of the judicial assessor to take possession of unrepresented estates, and to receive a commission for so doing, may rest, as he appears himself to rest it, on usage established by precedent; whether it can be maintained on this ground or not the proper tribunals will, apparently, have to determine.

8. These doubts, however, make it the more important that you should take speedy measures on your return to your government, for passing an ordinance respecting the care of unrepresented estates. It will be for Her Majesty's Government to determine, with such legal assistance as they can obtain, what legal effect, if any, such ordinance may have as to the effects of parties dying beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the Legislative Council of the Gold Coast, and to take such steps as may be advised to give it the necessary force.

9. His Grace agrees with you in thinking that there are strong reasons against the Chief Justice of the colony occupying the position of receiver of these estates. In addition to those which you have given, and others which might be deduced from the papers before him, he remarks that this arrangement renders it impossible to adopt the very important provision of the Sierra Leone amending ordinance, giving to the Chief Justice the power of controlling the accounts of such receiver.

10. His Grace would also be fully satisfied with the adoption of your suggestion, that this office should be held by a responsible merchant on the Gold Coast; the more so, as that suggestion seems to be in accordance with the views of the gentlemen who have addressed him on the subject, and whose acquaintance with the requirements of the settlement, as well as their interest in its prosperity, are undeniable. But it is above all things necessary that the holder of the office should be impartial and unconnected with parties likely to have extensive demands on estates so circumstanced. His Grace is not aware what amount of difficulty might be found in selecting an officer possessing these qualifications from among the mercantile body resident on the Gold Coast; and on the whole he believes it will be best that the ordinance should merely give the Governor power to appoint a receiver, it being understood that, if possible, the appointment should be made from the class above-mentioned.

11. It appears also doubtful whether the commission of 7½ per cent. on all property which passes through the receiver's hands is not too high, considering that in the instances now under review, some considerable portion of that property seems to be of a kind very easy to be realised.

12. On this head, however, his Grace must confine himself to suggestions, which it will be for the Legislative Council to consider; and with these suggestions he leaves the case in your hands.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Merivale.*

No. 11.
Duke of Newcastle to the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast.
1 October 1853.

No. 67, 2 August 1853, page 2.
No. 68, 2 August 1853, page 17.

— No. 11. —

(No. 56.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Duke of *Newcastle* to the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast.

Sir, Downing-street, 11 October 1853.

I HAVE to acknowledge Mr. Fitzpatrick's despatches of the numbers and dates noted in the margin, forwarding communications from yourself respecting Mr. Fitzpatrick's conduct as receiver of unrepresented estates, in relation to the effects of Mr. Clouston and Mr. Hervey respectively.

Encl. 1.—Messrs. Forster & Smith, 29 July 1853, p. 25.
Encl. 2.—Colonial Office to Messrs. Forster & Smith, 10 August 1853, p. 38.
Encl. 3.—Mr. Swanzy, 10 August 1853, p. 27.
Encl. 4.—Colonial Office to Major Hill, 6 September 1853, p. 24.
Encl. 5.—Major Hill, 9 September 1853, p. 33.
Encl. 6.—Colonial Office to Mr. Swanzy, 11 October 1853, p. 39.
Encl. 7.—Colonial Office to Messrs. Forster & Smith, 11 October 1853, p. 39.
Encl 8.—Colonial Office to Major Hill, 11 October 1853, p. 36.

2. With reference to those despatches, I send you copy of a correspondence which has passed between this department, Messrs. Forster & Smith, Mr. Swanzy, and Governor Hill, since his arrival in this country.

3. I have not called upon Mr. Fitzpatrick for any explanation of his conduct in answer to the charges brought against him by Messrs. Forster & Smith and Mr. Swanzy, because it appears that recourse is likely to be had to legal proceedings, in order to enforce those charges, which would render such interference on my part improper.

4. But the directions which I have given to Governor Hill on the whole subject will, I trust, lead ultimately to prevent the recurrence of such difficulties as have been hitherto felt.

5. The letter which I have caused to be addressed to Messrs. Forster & Smith, contains the reasons for which I felt it impossible to accede to the application contained in your letters of the 26th and 27th of July. Although I cannot interfere in relation to the grievances which you consider yourself to have sustained, for which the proper recourse would appear to be a court of law, the public service will now have the benefit of your advice and experience in endeavouring to place the law and practice for the future on a more satisfactory footing.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Newcastle.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 11.

Encl. 1, in No. 11. LETTER from Messrs. *Forster & Smith,* dated 29 July 1853. *Vide* p. 25.

Enclosure 2, in No. 11.

Encl. 2, in No. 11.

Gentlemen, Downing-street, 10 August 1853.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acknowledge your letter of the 29th ultimo on the subject of the powers of Mr. Fitzpatrick over the estates of intestates, upon which a reference has already been made to the colony.

I am, &c.
Messrs. Forster & Smith. (signed) *F. Peel.*

Enclosure 3, in No. 11.

Encl. 3, in No. 11. LETTER from Mr. *Swanzy,* dated 10 August 1853. *Vide* p. 27.

Enclosure

Enclosure 4, in No. 11.

LETTER from *F. Peel*, Esq., to Governor *Hill*, dated 6 September 1853. *Vide* p. 24. Encl. 4, in No. 1

Enclosure 5, in No. 11.

LETTER from Governor *Hill*, dated 9 September 1853. *Vide* p. 33. Encl. 5, in No. 1

Enclosure 6, in No. 11.

Sir, Downing-street, 11 October 1853.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle, in answer to your letter of the 10th of August, complaining of certain proceedings taken by the judicial assessor in the case of the effects of Mr. F. Swanzy, to transmit to you copy of a letter which I have addressed, by his command, to Messrs. Forster & Smith on the subject of similar representations. Encl. 6, in No. 1

11 Oct. 1853, *infra*

I am, &c.

A. Swanzy, Esq.
39, Clements Lane.

(signed) *H. Merivale.*

Enclosure 7, in No. 11.

Gentlemen, Downing-street, 11 October 1853.

1. I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to state that his Grace has had under consideration your letter of the 17th June and 29th July last, containing certain representations respecting the conduct of the judicial assessor at the Gold Coast in taking possession of unrepresented estates. A reference of the former letter was made to Governor Hill, as you were informed on the 16th ultimo, but in the meantime the Governor had left the colony on leave of absence. His attention has been called to the correspondence since his arrival here, and his Grace has also since received two despatches from the judicial assessor (while administering the Government) containing representations of a similar nature from Mr. Brodie Cruickshank, and vindicating his character from the imputations which he considers to be contained in them. Encl. 7, in No. 1

2. On the whole subject his Grace is disposed to adopt the following conclusions, though not without a sense of the difficulties arising from the very peculiar situation in legal as well as other respects, of the settlements on the Gold Coast.

3. That he cannot pronounce with propriety any opinion respecting the conduct of the judicial assessor in the details of the administration of the estates in question, because in one or two instances at least, it appears that this conduct is about to become the subject of judicial investigation; his Grace only feels it due to the judicial assessor that he should express his belief that no charge of official misconduct or malversation is established by these papers against him.

4. It would be equally beyond the province of the Secretary of State to pronounce any judgment as to the legal powers of the assessor, which are, it appears, about to be in a similar manner made the subject of judicial investigation.

5. These doubts, however, make it the more important that the Governor should take speedy measures on his return to his Government for passing an ordinance respecting the care of unrepresented estates. It will be for Her Majesty's Government to determine, with such legal assistance as they can obtain, what legal effect, if any, such ordinance may have as to the property of parties dying beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the Legislative Council of the Gold Coast, and to take such steps as they may be advised to give it the necessary force.

6. His Grace thinks farther, that there are strong reasons against the chief justice of the colony occupying the position of receiver of these estates. He is fortified in this view by the opinion of the Governor as well as your own.

7. His Grace would also be fully satisfied with the adoption of a suggestion made by the Governor, that this office should be held by a responsible merchant on the Gold Coast; the more so as that suggestion seems to be in accordance with your views and those of other gentlemen who have addressed him on the subject, and whose acquaintance with the requirements of the settlement, as well as their interest in its prosperity, are undeniable. But it is above all things necessary that the holder of the office should be impartial, and unconnected with parties likely to have extensive demands on estates so circumstanced. His Grace is not aware what amount of difficulty might be found in selecting an officer possessing these qualifications from among the mercantile body resident on the Gold Coast, and, on the whole

whole, he believes it will be best that the ordinance should merely give the Governor power to appoint a receiver, it being understood that, if possible, the appointment should be made from the class above mentioned.

8. It appears also doubtful whether the commission of 7½ per cent. on all property which passes through the receiver's hands is not too high, considering that in the instances now under review some considerable portion of that property seems to be of a kind very easy to be realised.

9. On this head, however, his Grace must confine himself to suggestions which it will be for the Legislative Council to consider.

I have, &c.

Messrs. Forster & Smith. (signed) *F. Peel.*

Enclosure 8, in No. 11.

Encl. 8, in No. 11. LETTER from *H. Merivale*, Esq., to Governor *Hill*, dated 11 October 1853. *Vide* p. 36.

— No. 12. —

No. 12. Governor Hill to H. Merivale, Esq. 17 October 1853.

COPY of LETTER from Governor *Hill* to *H. Merivale*, Esq.

Army and Navy Club, Pall-Mall,

Sir, 17 October 1853.

* Page 36. I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch* of the 11th instant, relative to the conduct of the judicial assessor in the management of certain unrepresented estates, and conveying suggestions from his Grace the Duke of Newcastle for the consideration of the Legislative Council in framing an ordinance appointing a receiver to such estates, and desiring I should take speedy measures on my return to my government for passing this required ordinance.

Having carefully perused his Grace's observations on this subject, and being aware of the importance of such enactments as you have pointed out being passed without delay, and as it may be some months before my return to the Gold Coast, I beg leave respectfully to suggest that the present Acting Governor be instructed to prepare and pass through the Council the required ordinance, without waiting for my arrival.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Stephen J. Hill,*

Governor of the Gold Coast.

— No. 13. —

(No. 61.)

No. 13. Duke of Newcastle to the Officer administering the Government of the Gold Coast. 23 October 1853.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of *Newcastle* to the Officer Administering the Government of the *Gold Coast.*

Sir, Downing-street, 23 October 1853.

* Page 38. WITH reference to my despatch*, No. 56, of the 11th instant, in which I stated that the public service would now have the benefit of your advice and experience in endeavouring to place the law and practice relative to unrepresented estates at the Gold Coast for the future on a more satisfactory footing, I have further to state that as Major Hill will not resume his Government for several months, I should wish you to take the subject into your immediate consideration, and to pass the Ordinance which is required for the administration of unrepresented estates.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Newcastle.*

— No. 14. —

No. 14.
Governor Hill to the Duke of Newcastle.
26 October 1853.

COPY of LETTER from Governor *Hill* to the Duke of *Newcastle*.

Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall,
My Lord Duke, 26 October 1853.

AGREEABLY to the request of the Chief Justice of the Gold Coast, contained in the enclosed communication directed to me, I have the honour to enclose a despatch, intended for your Grace's information, giving cover to enclosures numbered from No. 1 to No. 9. Enclosure 1.

Without your Grace's permission, and not having perused the report of the Lieutenant-governor, I do not consider myself justified in offering an opinion on the merits of this case, but I beg leave to assure your Grace that I am much surprised to learn that such a charge has been brought against the judicial assessor, as all the chiefs and people appeared to estimate highly the strict impartiality and justice of that officer, and I can bear the highest testimony to the zealous and efficient manner he discharged the duties of his office during the period he served under my government. Enclosure 2.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stephen J. Hill*,
Governor, Gold Coast.

Enclosure, 1 in No. 14.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 9 September 1853.

I BEG leave to forward through you a communication which I have done myself the honour to address to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle. I shall feel obliged by your informing his Grace how I appeared to be estimated by the chiefs and people of the Gold Coast, on the occasion of their being assembled at Donguah in April last, when I had the honour of accompanying your Excellency; and you will also do me a favour by stating if you consider it either what I merited or beneficial to the country to have me publicly insulted at the bidding of these few intriguers of Cape Coast, whose character and position you are well acquainted with, and I think explained in a despatch to Earl Grey in the beginning of the year 1852. Encl. 1, in No. 14.

The opposition offered to your proclamation will also enable you to say whether the dictation of the people of Cape Coast, even if it were real, ought to controul the Governor of these settlements.

I believe the lieutenant-governor has written at considerable length to show that I am a very rash innovator, and of course not a safe or desirable adviser: at all events he has rid himself of the burden; but I appeal to you, Sir, without hesitation, to say whether I am imprudent or worthless, or regardless of my duty as the adviser of the executive; and that you may see how far I have changed my manner of proceeding since you left, I enclose a letter which I lately had occasion to address to Captain Mayne at Dixcove. Sub-Enclosure.

I have, &c.
His Excellency Major Hill. (signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick*.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 1, in No. 14.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 15 August 1853.

IN reply to your letter of the 3d instant respecting the case of "Breky *v.* Berraboo," I enclose a copy of a letter of instructions which I addressed sometime since to the magistrates on the Gold Coast, from which you will learn the general principles which must guide your conduct in deciding native palavers. In the present case your opinions on slavery and the pawn system are quite correct; but you must remember that the people whose cases you decide are not British subjects; consequently you must endeavour to wean them gradually from some of their practices; for if you proceed so abruptly as you seem to think necessary, the consequence will be that they will take the cases to native tribunals, where tyranny and extortion prevail. I send you a letter which I received on this subject from some people at Dixcove, by which you will perceive that they do not understand your decision as you intended. You had better endeavour to give effect to their contracts, at the same time that you improve their laws and customs. If a man choose to serve another in consideration of a loan, either to himself or the head of his house, the loan should bear no interest, and when he withdraws his services he should repay the loan. Sub-Enclosure to Encl. 1, in No. 14.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick*,
Captain Mayne, J. P. Judicial Assessor.

Enclosure 2, in No. 14.

My Lord Duke, Cape Coast Castle, 9 September 1853.

Encl. 2, in No. 14. I HAVE the honour to bring under your Grace's notice certain proceedings which have taken place here respecting me and my office of judicial assessor since the present Lieutenant-governor, Mr. Cruickshank, assumed the administration of the government on the 26th ultimo.

I regret extremely that I should be compelled to trespass upon your Grace's attention, but I confidently hope that your Grace will not consider this a personal question.

The position of a barrister who takes office on the West Coast of Africa may be considered a very humble one indeed. His fortunes cannot have been propitious, or he would not have been driven to so hard a destiny; but notwithstanding this, his own honour and that of his profession ought to be as dear to him as if he practised it with success in Westminster Hall. It is the best guarantee the public have for the due discharge of his duties, and if I have preserved it untarnished in my person, I look with confidence to your Grace for support and protection.

Mr. Cruickshank was sworn into office as Lieutenant-governor on Friday, the 27th ultimo. On the Monday following he directed Mr. Murray, the Acting Colonial Secretary, to afford me the perusal of a petition from some people of the town of Cape Coast, calling for my dismissal; a letter from Mr. Smith, and some other documents. Mr. Murray on that occasion informed me, by direction of Mr. Cruickshank, that he was anxious to suppress the petition in question, as he knew that however absurd the charges might be, or however correct and upright my conduct may have been, it still would injure me to have this petition go home, as, innocent or guilty, I would suffer as a person who caused trouble. At the same time he said that he thought if I gave a promise to go to England he could induce the people to withdraw it; and he left Mr. Murray under the impression, who conveyed it to me, that it was his, the Lieutenant-governor's, opinion that I ought to give this promise.

Sub-Enclosure 1. I beg to enclose a letter from Mr. Murray on this subject. To this suggestion I replied
Sub-Enclosure 2. by a note, of which Enclosure No. 2 is a copy. I then received Enclosure No. 3, to
Sub-Enclosure 3. which I replied by Enclosure No. 4.
Sub-Enclosure 4. I should inform your Grace that on Mr. Murray's calling on me, I told him to say to the Lieutenant-governor that I knew that this petition, &c., was got up by Messrs. Smith & Barnes, in order to prevent my acting on certain disclosures made in court respecting their being holders of slaves and pawns; and at the same time I gave him a report which I had prepared on the subject, and requested him to show it to the Lieutenant-governor, and say that I did not send it officially to him, as I did not wish to embarrass him in the commencement of his government, and that I should meet his wishes as to the time of presenting it officially. He then conveyed to me through Mr. Murray, that my report only anticipated his own views; that he had determined on removing those persons from the magistracy, and that my sending in my report would only bring matters to a crisis a little earlier. I accordingly sent it in next day, and I now have the honour to enclose a copy for
Sub-Enclosure 5. your Grace's information.

On Monday, the 5th instant, I received a verbal message from the Lieutenant-governor, through the Colonial Secretary, to say, that as the chiefs from the country had not arrived, the Lieutenant-governor wished to know if I desired that the meeting should be postponed. I replied that on public grounds I thought it desirable. It was accordingly postponed for their arrival, as I was informed, but in the evening of the same day I received an extremely uncourteous intimation that I should attend at the school-room at 11 o'clock the next day. I accordingly did attend, when the proceedings took place, of which I have the honour to
Sub-Enclosure 6. enclose a report. There was not one chief present, except the man who is styled King of Cape Coast, and who is a mere tool in the hands of two or three traders. The principal portion of the persons present were servants in the employment of the traders in the town as gold takers, or in an humble capacity, and I beg to assure your Grace that their opinion is no more the opinion of the chiefs and people of the Gold Coast than the opinion of the inhabitants of a by-street would be the opinion of London.

I am happy, however, to be able to inform your Grace that there were some gentlemen of education and respectability present, and so strongly did they feel on the subject that the officers of the garrison waited on me in a body the same evening to express their sympathy, as they stated, with a public servant who had been sacrificed for doing his duty. I beg leave
Sub-Enclosure 7. to enclose a copy of my letter declining an invitation which they were good enough to give me on that occasion.

I beg leave to inform your Grace, that I have not received a copy of one of these documents, which I understand from a despatch shown to me on yesterday, by directions of the Lieutenant-governor, are to be forwarded to your Grace by this opportunity: and having had but a hasty perusal of that despatch, I only recollect that the Lieutenant-governor states that the fines inflicted by me were too large, and that he found, on his return to the country, many bad practices revived which had fallen into abeyance. With respect to the fines, I beg leave to say, that the only one which was called in question was one of the year 1848, of 100 oz. of gold for sacrificing five human beings. The head chief of the country where this crime was committed had been fined 50 oz. a few years previously for the same practice; and he then ordered all his subordinates to abandon it, and this man in particular. Notwithstanding which he subsequently sacrificed five persons, as I have stated, for which I sentenced him to seven years' imprisonment, or to pay a fine of 100 oz. of gold. He paid the fine as the lesser evil, but he never repeated the offence. I believe there is something

stated

stated in the petition as to my having fined the people of Anamaboe 100 oz. I beg leave to say that I never fined them more than 10 oz., and that was in the month of January, in the year 1849.

With respect to the revival of many bad practices which had fallen into abeyance, I take leave to say that this is an uncalled-for and unmerited slur, not only upon me, but upon the government of Major Hill. I can say, without egotism, that I am as good a judge of the state of society on the Gold Coast, for the last five years, as any other person, and I assure your Grace that no relapse of this description has taken place. There is room enough, in my opinion, for any person to effect improvements in Africa without casting imputations on those who have gone before them, or denying them the merit they are entitled to.

This day I have been shown a second despatch on the same subject, from the Lieutenant-governor, in which he informs your Grace that my having summoned the King of Cape Coast was the principal cause of offence to the people; that it had never been the practice, and also that it was a great indignity to have Europeans on the jury which inquired into his conduct. I am fortunate in being spared the pain of offering, on my own authority, a contradiction of these several statements of the Lieutenant-governor, but I enclose two extracts from the proceedings of the court whilst I was in England, which disproves them in detail, and from which your Grace will perceive that he was not only summoned, but held to bail, tried, and reprimanded, by Europeans and natives combined. In fact, the man is continually sued for debt, and it is quite an imaginary importance with which the Lieutenant-governor has surrounded him. On this, as on every subject when I have given an opinion of my own, I beg leave to refer your Grace to the experience of Governor Hill, through whom I have the honour to forward this despatch. With regard to the protest of certain traders against my releasing pauper debtors, I beg leave to inform your Grace that, with two exceptions, it is only signed by persons commercially connected with the house of Messrs. Forster & Smith, of London; and as the Lieutenant-governor is the agent of that house, and must have been consulted about this protest, I respectfully submit for your Grace's consideration if it would not have become him to prevent a proceeding so inconsistent with the first principles of humanity, and so insulting to the Court over which I presided.

Sub-Enclosure 8.
Sub-Enclosure 9.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle. (signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

Sub-Enclosure 1 to Enclosure 2, in No. 14.

Sir, Cape Coast, 9 September 1853.

In compliance with your wish, I beg to state that by direction of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, I called on you, on the 30th ultimo, to afford you the perusal of a petition for your dismissal, from some of the people of Cape Coast, with other documents. I was instructed to inform you that his Excellency considered, however blameless or praiseworthy your official conduct may have been, it would still be injurious to your prospects to have this petition go home, and he thought that if you expressed an intention to leave the colony at an early date, he could induce the withdrawal of the petition; the impression left on my mind at the close of this conversation with his Excellency was that he thought it for your interest to give this promise, and I conveyed that impression to you. But I was the bearer of a note from you to his Excellency declining to adopt that course.

Sub-Encl. 1 to Encl. 2, in No. 14.

I am, &c.

(signed) *John Murray,*
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Honour Chief Justice J. C. Fitzpatrick.

Sub-Enclosure 2 to Enclosure 2, in No. 14.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 30 August 1853.

I have to thank you for your kind wishes conveyed to me through Mr. Murray, and your offer of your personal influence with Messrs. Barnes, Smith, Hughes, and Degraft, to induce them to withdraw a complaint made to you respecting my official conduct.

Sub-Encl. 2 to Encl. 2, in No. 14.

I am obliged, I say, for your friendly intentions; but since the first hour in which I was able to reflect, I have cherished above all other objects my self-respect, and by doing now what you are kind enough to afford me an opportunity for, and that perhaps an unworthy prudence might suggest to myself, I would only install an accusing spirit in my own breast, which would torture me for life, whatever apparent advantages I might reap from the proceeding. No, I will not part with my own good opinion for any price.

I have

I have discharged my duty since I came here impartially, and I believe correctly too; and there is no man has power to injure me, save a dishonest governor who would make an unfair report.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. C. Fitzpatrick.*

N. B.—I beg leave to say that if a public inquiry should be decided on by your Excellency on this subject, I would wish to have others besides Cape Coast people present, as I am judicial assessor for the Gold Coast, not Cape Coast.

His Excellency Lieutenant-governor Cruickshank.

Sub-Enclosure 3 to Enclosure 2, in No. 14.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 30 August 1853.

Sub-Encl. 3 to Encl. 2, in No. 14.

I HAVE received your note. The view you have taken of the matter is what I expected from you, and what I would have done myself.

As it will be necessary to give an answer to the chiefs, it can only be done by asking them to prove any just cause of complaint against you. This can only be done by a public investigation. I need not say that I will yield to your own convenience in this matter, and make the time suitable to that. But if you wish any particular chiefs or persons to be present, black or white, let me know, and they will get official notice.

I have, &c.
The Hon. J. C. Fitzpatrick. (signed) *B. Cruickshank.*

Sub-Enclosure 4 to Enclosure 2, in No. 14.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 30 August 1853.

Sub-Encl. 4 to Encl. 2, in No. 14.

IF I understand this matter correctly, it is to be inquired into by you, and, of necessity, in public. In expressing a wish that others besides Cape Coast people should be present, I meant only as audience, spectators, or witnesses, if they had anything to prove; and these are my reasons for entertaining that wish. If my conduct has been tyrannical throughout, others besides Cape Coast people must have suffered from it, and it would be well to let them make their complaints also. If they have not suffered, it goes some way towards disproving the existence of a system of tyranny.

The public trial of the sole judicial authority, and second officer of the colony, is a very serious matter; and for the good of society, when that step is deemed necessary, I think his condemnation or acquittal should be as public as possible. I therefore do not ask for the presence of any person or chief in particular; but as you are about to hold a general assembly of the chiefs of the Gold Coast, I respectfully suggest that this inquiry should take place on that occasion, and that all the officials within your command should be present, in order that, as the case may turn out, they may take example or warning from the conduct of the accused.

I have, &c.
His Excellency (signed) *J. C. Fitzpatrick.*
Lieutenant-governor Cruickshank.

Sub-Enclosure 5 to Enclosure 2, in No. 14.

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, 29 August 1853.

Sub-Encl. 5 to Encl. 2, in No. 14.

I HAVE the honour to bring under your consideration certain facts connected with the slave trade and slave-holding in these settlements, which it was my intention either to have acted on myself, if I continued any time in the administration of the Government, or laid before his Excellency the Governor on his return.

Commander Phillips of Her Majesty's steam sloop "Polyphemus" reported to me, on the 4th of the present month, that Mr. Evans, of Quittah, a magistrate and paid officer of the Government, had refused to give information to an officer of his ship, unless he was guaranteed some reward.

I obtained the written statement of two officers of the "Polyphemus" on this subject, which your Excellency will find recorded in the Colonial Secretary's Office; and I called on Mr. Evans for his explanation by letter, dated 6th August 1853, which he has not as yet transmitted.

On the 16th July last, it was stated to me by a pawn woman, brought before me for disturbance, that she was a pawn to Mr. Joseph Smith, and that her fellow slaves and pawns were abusing her for not coming early to her work.

As Mr. Smith is also a magistrate and paid officer of the Government, I instructed the Colonial Secretary to write to that gentleman, informing him of the statement of the woman, and you will perceive by his reply that he does not deny the fact of this woman being a pawn to him.

On

On the evening of the 8th of August Mr. Smith called upon me to inform me that a certain man, from whom he had directed the native king to recover a debt for him, had been put in log for some insolence, and he thought it right to tell him of it. I told him I should send a constable to see the man and inquire into the case.

The report made to me subsequently by the constable Buckman was, that the man had been put in log by the native king at the request of Mr. Smith, in order to compel him to sell himself and reimburse Mr. Smith the price he had paid for him some years before. On the next day I had the man brought before me, when he swore to the same statement. As this was a violation, as your Excellency is aware, of the native law in its strictest usages as to slaves, to torture a slave by imprisonment if he cannot find a buyer of himself at the price originally paid for him, I thought the natives themselves would solemnly condemn such an outrage, so I directed the slave to bring an action against Mr. Smith for false imprisonment; but in this I was disappointed; the jury found an ambiguous verdict, acquitting Mr. Smith. Perhaps I did not explain to them very clearly the question they had to decide, for I am frequently embarrassed from the fact of there being no prosecutor to aid the judge. At all events, Mr. Smith, as you will perceive by the report of the case which I enclose, did not deny the fact that the plaintiff was sent by him to the native king to be compelled to pay a debt, that debt being, according to the evidence, the price of himself. According to Mr. Smith's spoken defence, it was no matter how it arose.

The next matter to which I have to call your attention is the sworn statement of an insolvent debtor, named Quow Loon, now confined in Fort William. He is security for a relation of his, named Quashie Daddie, to Thomas Hughes, of Cape Coast; and he swears that, for the purpose of raising money to pay the debt for which he is responsible, he sold 18 members of his family, five of them women, for two ounces of gold each, to the wife of Mr. Barnes, a magistrate on the Gold Coast.

Now, sir, if I were writing to any other person but yourself, I might find it necessary to explain how the object and practice of this Government is to discourage, in every possible way, the pawn and slave-holding system, without violently interfering with the property, or arousing the apprehensions of the natives; but to you any observation of this kind is quite unnecessary.

I believe it was with your advice that his Excellency Major Hill, in April 1852, issued a proclamation forbidding any educated native to hold slaves or pawns.

This proclamation, which has been approved by the home authorities, sufficiently manifests the intentions of the Government: and I respectfully ask, is it not inconsistent with this proclamation to have Mr. Smith continue to hold an office of trust and emolument, that of collector of customs, and something almost amounting to absurdity, to have him and Mr. Barnes administrators of English law, while they and their wives are buying and selling slaves? At all events, I do most respectfully submit that it is incompatible with the due and uniform administration of justice, and calculated to bring it into contempt in the eyes of the uneducated and educated natives.

I have further the honour to state that I am informed, and I believe I can prove, that in consequence of my manifesting an intention to do my duty on this subject, the persons I have before named, Messrs. Smith and Barnes, aided by Mr. Hughes, whose antecedents and character you are aware of, with Mr. W. Degraft, who now style themselves the representatives of Cape Coast, have taken measures, by means of misrepresenting my conduct and intentions, to poison and mislead the minds of the natives of this town, and to impede and obstruct me in the discharge of my duty. And I respectfully call upon your Excellency to protect the pure and impartial administration of justice here in Her Majesty's Fort from the intrigues or the violence of slave-holders.

I have, &c.

His Excellency (signed) *J. C. Fitzpatrick.*
Lieutenant-governor Cruickshank.

EXTRACT.—Records G.—P. 97.

8 August 1853.

BEFORE the judicial assessor and the following jury: Captain M'Court, J. P., H. Barnes, Esq., J. P., R. Hutchinson, G. L. Heinz, Esquires, and Messrs. John Hagan, William Hagan, Edmund David, and Dr. Roe, who having been duly sworn, the case was called—

Quacoo v. *Joseph Smith* and *Coffee Amissah.*

The judicial assessor having read the statement, made on the 5th instant, by the plaintiff, for the information of the jury, Quacoo states that he was sent for by King Amissa, and states the same as on the 5th instant.

Sapey examined:—States that Mr. Smith sent him to the king to say, that if he got Quacoo's money he might bring it to him; was present when the king put him in irons; the money was what Mr. Smith paid for him. Quacoo said to the king, "If you give Mr. Smith 1 *oz.* 2 *acs.*, I'll cut my throat." Cross-examined by defendant: Did not tell the king to put him in log.

John Hayford (interpreter) states, it is not allowed at all, by the native laws, to put a slave in log who is willing to do his work, but cannot get a person to buy him.

Jack Hooper knew King Aggrey to decide palavers; knew Captain Murray to send Erskine to King Aggrey, and details some features of it. Mr. Jackson, a member of Council, summoned witness to Old Brew.

Aqua was ordered to take cases to king. Marman was not blamed.

Hayford proves that Mr. Marman summoned a man before King Amissa.

Edward wrote to judicial assessor that he was in log for debt.

Agill knows Abbokay was confined with his child. Captain M'Court sent for, and asked him. Abbokay paid the account. Next day Abbokay asked to speak to Captain M'Court. About 29*l.* was stolen from him. Said he must pay softly.

Captain M'Court makes a statement.

Mr. Hansen, sworn.—said he did not remember to have heard the judicial assessor say that Coffee Amissa had no right to decide palavers.

Defence of *Joseph Smith* and *Coffee Amissah.*

Gentlemen of the Jury,

I BEG briefly to make my defence and that of the persons placed at the bar with me. In reference to Coffee Amissa, the habit of the kings of Cape Coast is to hear cases, and to settle, and put in log. Farther, that neither his predecessors nor himself had entered into any treaty or agreement with the Government to resign his prerogative; that native kings and chiefs had sometimes been fined by the European authorities for an abuse of the prerogative; but in the present instance, he, Coffee Amissa, had only exercised a necessary restraint to coerce a man who had publicly threatened to take blood.

With regard to my gold takers, they were acting entirely by my orders in bringing the case before Amissa, and they sued this man for the debt on my behalf.

As far as my defence goes, I beg leave to state that it has been proved in evidence that there is a native constituted authority, and that that authority has taken cognizance of cases brought before it, both by natives and Europeans. I authorised my gold takers to sue this man, for a debt of 9*l.*, before Coffee Amissa, and I was informed that the result of their application had been, the confinement of the man in log, not on account of my debt, but because he had made threats to take blood. Being myself a magistrate, I did not consider it fit that he should remain in log without apprising the judicial assessor, the assistant of the native sovereigns and chiefs, with a view of having the case brought under his notice. I did so about half an hour after I received the information, and about two hours after the man had been confined; so that all that I done, gentlemen of the jury, was to endeavour, without troubling the European authorities, to get redress from a native constituted authority, which it has been proved, as on previous occasions, had been applied to, both by natives and Europeans, and which authority has not been abrogated by any treaty or agreement with the natives. I disclaim altogether any intention of disrespect to the European authorities by this application. It has been shown in evidence that Mr. G. W. Marman, Captain M'Court, and Mr. Hughes had all cases in native courts; and in reference to the case of the latter, gentlemen, it has been shown, also, that the judicial assessor was aware of the confinement of the person confined in log by Coffee Amissah, but that he took no steps in consequence.

If my prosecution before King Amissah was criminal, so was that of Mr. Hughes's, and it is a matter of regret to me that the judicial assessor did not take steps in that case as might have warned me of the danger.

If the prosecution had been solely for the purpose of redressing an injury done to this man, it was in the judicial assessor's power to have released him 20 hours before he did it; and if I am guilty of false imprisonment, the judicial assessor was himself a party to this man's suffering imprisonment longer than it was necessary.

Gentlemen, I have not offended at all, unless it had been an offence to sue a debtor in a legal and legitimate manner, a manner which you have had proof of being had recourse to on former occasions, both by natives and Europeans too. I therefore confidently look for an acquittal, both for myself and those placed at the bar with me.

Cape Coast, 8 August 1853.

The question for the jury in this case is, whether this was a case brought before the king with a proper motive to recover a debt, or with an improper one, to force a man to sell himself?

VERDICT.

With respect to Mr. Smith, it would appear that he brought a man, named Quacoo, before the native court, to recover the sum of 9*l.* The man owed that debt; and King Amissah offered to pay the sum of one ounce two ackies, and keep the man as a sort of pawn, until he had an opportunity of paying the sum advanced on his account. The man, rather than submit to this, threatened to take away his own life; he was then put in log by the king, according to the native law. The jury acquit Mr. Smith of falsely imprisoning the plaintiff; and as regards the king, it would appear to be the native custom to place a man in log who threatened to commit suicide.

(signed) *J. M'Court,*
Foreman of the Jury.

Cape Coast Castle, 8 August 1853.

(2.)

EXTRACT.—Records, G.—P. 96.

5 August 1853.

QUACOO states, that on the 15th July, King Amissah sent for him; and when he went, he said that Mr. Smith had sent him word that he should make him pay 2 *oz.* 4 ½ *ars.* for his freedom, as he was a slave of Mr. Smith's, having purchased him, six years ago, from Samuel Christian, for this sum.

Complainant replied that he had no money, and that if Mr. Smith wanted money, he should sell him himself.

The king then said, Mr. Smith could not sell him, as if he did he would get palaver, but that he, the king, would put him in log and sell him. He did not put him in log, however, on this occasion; but, three days ago, he sent for him again, and on going to the king's house, he found Mr. Smith's gold takers, Anau and Lassim, there. The king then said that Mr. Smith sent his gold takers to him to get his money for him.

Complainant said he was not a free man or a pawn to Mr. Smith, but his slave, and he could not get any money, but if Mr. Smith wanted the money he gave for him, he should sell him again. The king then said he should put him in log to sell him, and if he could not get anyone to buy him, he would do so himself.

Complainant then said he would bring him to court if he did. He was then put in irons, and kept there till the judicial assessor sent his constable to have him released.

(True extract).

(signed) *James M. Hansen,*
Clerk to the Judicial Assessor.

Sub-Enclosure 6, to Enclosure 2, in No. 14.

AT a meeting of the caboceers and people of Cape Coast, held in the school-room of Cape Coast Castle on the 6th September 1853, Lieutenant-governor Cruickshank stated that he had received a petition signed by a number of people, calling on him to dismiss Mr. Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor, and therefore he had required the attendance of the people and that officer on the present occasion. He first wished to ask some of the people who signed the petition, what cause of complaint they had, that he might judge of the *bonâ fide* nature of the petition and the manner in which it was got up. Sub-Encl. 6, Encl. 2, in No.

One Samuel Wood, lately a mess waiter, said that he recollected when Mr. Maclean confined in the fort; he cut his throat after it, and therefore when he saw that Mr. Fitzpatrick one day kept the king of Cape Coast in the fort, he thought it very bad, and that was his reason for signing the petition. Another, Coffee Yammee, said that two of his cocoa nut trees were cut down when the new drain was making, and he also complained of a decision of Mr. Fitzpatrick's in the year 1849, by which a man was fined two ounces. Another said he got a decree in Court against a man and he was not put in gaol; he admitted he never gave his decree to a constable to be executed.

Mr. Hagan said he signed it on account of the king's being cited to the court for debt or anything else.

Other hands were then called, but no person appearing, the Lieutenant-governor said there was nothing stated in the petition, save the summoning of the king and Mr. Smith, and detaining the former in the fort, which had not taken place before Mr. Fitzpatrick went to England, and that he had met with the marked approbation of the Governors and Secretaries of State under whom he served; he did not mean to inquire into past transactions.

He then proceeded to read a paper, marked "additional charges against Mr. Fitzpatrick," which had been handed to him during the meeting, and which he said he had not as yet read.

As each charge was read, the complainant was called upon to make it.

The first, a man Figmassie, was fined 100 ounces of gold in 1848 by Mr. Fitzpatrick for committing human sacrifices; he had killed one man and three women (as shown by the records of the court) on the grave of some relative; he stated his complaint at some length; he thought he should only have been fined 1 oz. 8.

The next, a man named Dutton, made his complaint at some length; his case was this. In 1847 a number of persons came from Wassau to complain of extortion and attempted murder, on the part of a chief named Djiaoo. They came to Dutton, he having some acquaintance with Wassau people, and as it was immediately after Mr. Maclean's death, Dutton said there was no judicial assessor and that he would settle the palaver for them; he then sent them to his farm in the bush and employed them for his own benefit, and sent messengers from time to time to Wassau for money. The late King Aggrey was once applied to by the people from Wassau, when he told Dutton that this was a palaver which should be taken to the fort. In the year 1849 it came to the ears of Mr. Fitzpatrick how these people had been treated; they were still in Dutton's possession; he accordingly had Djiawoo and Dutton brought to trial and punished.

The next was a man named Coffee Lomah, a gold taker to a Mr. Hagun, who was imprisoned in 1850 for non-performance of a contract entered into with a Dutch subject for the purchase of Swedish iron bars. A man named Acquah, interpreter to the king at Cape Coast, said that Mr. Fitzpatrick did not treat the king with due respect; that he summoned

him to his court and detained him in the fort one day, and that at the camp at Dunguah he insulted him.

Mr. Fitzpatrick then said, that he had attended there in compliance with the wishes of the Lieutenant-governor, as he was quite ready to have his conduct inquired into, and that he hoped it might be of benefit to the country, but he protested against the principle of calling on a judicial officer to account before a popular assembly for his acts. It was destructive, he considered, to the independence which was essential for the due discharge of his duties. With respect to citing the king of Cape Coast to court, he never heard that it was not within the scope of the judicial assessor's duties.

The king of Dinkera, the late Cudjoe Chibboe, who was a great chief, and the principal aid in resisting the Ashantees, when they overrun the country last, was summoned by Mr. Maclean and fined 50 oz. On one occasion, the king of Wassau, Enimili, was summoned frequently and never hesitated to obey. The circumstances under which he detained the king in the court for two hours were these: he received a letter from Mr. Schomerno, the Dutch governor at Elmina, complaining that the Elusina people were insulted and ill-treated at Cape Coast, and he requested him to take measures for their protection, as otherwise he could not protect the Cape Coast people who came to Elmina. On receipt of this letter Mr. Fitzpatrick sent for the king, who said it was very wrong, and that he knew nothing of it. Mr. Fitzpatrick then told him to have Gong Gong beat, to caution the people against this; he said he would, and did so the next day; but in the evening Gong Gong was beat by the king's crier to the opposite effect, viz., that no Elmina people should be allowed to come to Cape Coast at all. On Mr. Fitzpatrick's sending for this crier to inquire into this circumstance, the king took him into his house and said he would not allow him to come to the fort, as Mr. Fitzpatrick wished; the next day the king came into the fort, and said that the Governor might mind the fort and he would mind the town. He also refused to allow the man who beat Gong Gong to come into the fort, upon which Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he would detain him until the man came in. In about two hours the man was brought in, and the king apologised for his disrespectful conduct, when he left the fort. On the next day Mr. Fitzpatrick received another letter from the Dutch governor, complaining of the conduct of the King of Cape Coast, from which he read the following extract: "However disagreeable the task may be, duty compels me again to make a complaint to your Excellency against the King of Cape Coast, &c. &c. &c. I now request your Excellency to tell the Cape Coast king not to meddle with the affairs of a Dutch crown. I request this the more earnestly, because the above-mentioned native chief has on other occasions lately behaved himself in a very unbecoming manner towards Dutch subjects; setting them up against their lawful government, and troubling himself with matters utterly foreign and disreputable to his position and calling."

On receipt of this letter he sent again for the king and his chiefs, and explained to them that if they were to receive the protection of the English Government they should follow the advice and instructions they received; they could not be allowed to provoke hostilities between towns or people, and that this system of annoyance would end in that; and Mr. Fitzpatrick said that his prophecy proved true, for that only last week the town of English Secundee was utterly destroyed by the Dutch, and numerous lives lost. But Mr. Fitzpatrick said the real cause of this petition against him was, the case where he directed the king and Mr. Smith to be summoned for false imprisonment.

The circumstances of that case were as follows: Mr. Smith called on him one evening and said, that a man whom he had sent before the native king to have a debt recovered for him, had been put in log for giving insolence. Mr. Fitzpatrick told Mr. Smith that he would send a constable to inquire into the case; subsequently the constable, Buckman, reported to Mr. Fitzpatrick that he had seen the king and the man in log, and that they informed him that the man in log was a slave to Mr. Joseph Smith, and that Mr. Smith sent him to the king to compel him to sell himself, and repay Mr. Smith the sum he paid for him; the man refused to sell himself; said he was a freeman, or a pawn to Mr. Smith; that he was his slave, and Smith might sell him if he liked; to this the king replied, that Mr. Smith would get into trouble with the Fort if he sold a man, but that he should sell himself; the man persisting, the king put him in log. On the next day Mr. Fitzpatrick sent for the king and the man, who then made a statement on oath to the same effect, and Mr. Fitzpatrick, thinking that the natives themselves would condemn such an outrage on humanity, directed the man to bring an action for false imprisonment against Mr. Smith and the king. In this, however, he was disappointed. The jury believed the king when he said in court that the man was put in log because he threatened to kill himself. Mr. Smith, however, knew that the grave matter as regards him was behind, namely, that he, being a magistrate and paid officer of the Government, held slaves, and knowing that Mr. Fitzpatrick would do his duty endeavoured to tie up his hands by getting up this popular excitement against him. Some days after this Mr. Fitzpatrick was hearing the applications for discharge of pauper debtors, when Mr. Smith, Barnes, Hughes, and others came into court and interrupted the business by reading a protest, couched in the most disrespectful language. The case of one of the applicants for release was this: he became security for his nephew to Mr. Hughes for the price of certain goods which his nephew took to Badagry to trade with; there all his property was lost in a calamitous fire, which destroyed half the town, and this fact he proved by certificates of English traders resident there; his uncle was sued by Hughes and imprisoned, and the nephew in his efforts to raise money to extricate his uncle sold 18 members of his family, five of whom, women, were purchased at 2 oz. each by Mrs. Barnes, the wife of a magistrate, and one of those who signed that protest.

This

This was the real cause of this petition and clamour for Mr. Fitzpatrick's removal, because those people knew that he would do his duty. The officers of the squadron on this coast daily expose their lives in their efforts to suppress slavery, and he was not to be deterred by any combination from doing his duty in the same sacred cause on shore.

During Mr. Fitzpatrick's absence the Lieutenant-governor, then administering his office, had found it to be his duty to report that Governor Winniett had suppressed some matters in his knowledge respecting slavery in these settlements. That must have been a painful task when Sir William Winniett was at the time cold in his grave. Now Mr. Fitzpatrick would never impress on any man that painful duty as to him, dead or alive; he should leave it in no man's power to say that he had not done his duty fearlessly, therefore he had reported to the Lieutenant-governor one magistrate, an European, for making the discharge of his duty as to the slave trade a matter of bargain and sale; and he had also reported these two persons, Messrs. Smith and Barnes, for keeping slaves and pawns. He, Mr. Fitzpatrick, did not consider that a man who held slaves ought also to hold the Queen's commission. He did not mean to dictate to the Lieutenant-governor, but he had done his duty, and his conscience was at ease. He had administered justice impartially between all, rich or poor, high or low, and that his conduct was appreciated by the natives of the country was shown on the trial of Chibboo and Gabrie (at Dunguah on the 17th of April last), when all assembled together, through their organ, said they liked the English rule; that if they were fined or punished it was according to justice, not tyranically, and if this were not the opinion of the country, why was there no petition or complaint to Governor Hill, under whom Mr. Fitzpatrick served for eight months, since his return from England. They had now sifted and scrutinised his conduct for five years, and they could find no decision or act of his which could be censured; yet if he had acted as they were led to believe it would not be difficult. He would point out to them a decision which was given whilst he was in England, in order that they might know what tyranny and injustice were. He found that in their petition they ask to have two native Commissioners appointed to discharge his duties.

Of course the two candidates for this office were Messrs. Barnes & Smith. Now he would read for them a letter which Governor Hill was obliged to write in September last to these persons, for having sentenced a man to six months' imprisonment and four dozen lashes for having been concerned in a theft of four heads of corn. Mr. Fitzpatrick then read a letter from the Colonial Secretary, conveying, by instructions of the Governor, a severe reprimand to Messrs. Barnes and Smith for having ordered so barbarous a punishment for an offence which would have been amply atoned for by one week's imprisonment.

This was a bad case, but the dark part of it was not known to Governor Hill. The man who was thus punished had not been brought to trial in the usual course; he had been kept back until the relative of the prosecutor, supported by his friend, Mr. Smith, was on the bench.

The person from whose farm the four heads of corn had been stolen is named Henry Ammankrah; he is nephew to Mr. Barnes, and lives in his house with him. Barnes committed to prison the man accused of the theft, and on the next court day, Captain M'Court presiding, Martin, the gaoler, asked Mr. Barnes if he should bring up the man for stealing the corn, to which Barnes replied, "No, keep him until Mr. Smith and I sit." And he was accordingly brought before them on a subsequent day, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and four dozen lashes for four heads of corn. The lashes he received before Governor Hill heard of the case, but when it came to his knowledge he was at once discharged from prison. Mr. Smith then made some observations to the effect that Mr. Fitzpatrick had been guilty of subornation of perjury, because he directed a man named Swanzy to get him information as to how and by whom this petition was got up; and Swanzy stated that the king had told him that Mr. Smith sent for him and told him to get his people to petition against Mr. Fitzpatrick.

The Lieutenant-governor then said that the charges against Mr. Fitzpatrick were absurd. It was no new thing to put the King of Cape Coast in the Fort. He himself recollected when Mr. Topp put King Aggrey in the Fort. The most that could be said against Mr. Fitzpatrick was, that he thought to force the people into imprisonments instead of leading them. That perhaps he had some ungraciousness of manner, but these were trifles indeed when compared with his high principles and upright justice. What he should decide was, that Mr. Fitzpatrick should get leave of absence and go to Accra or elsewhere for some time, until the present popular excitement subsided; he should not say this if he had been for sometime longer in the administration of the Government, but he felt it was necessary now, in order that he might go on quietly with the people, and have their assistance if he required it.

Mr. Fitzpatrick then said he knew his duty as a public servant too well not to receive respectfully any decision of the Lieutenant-Governor, but he begged leave to say that he considered he had been publicly suspended for having done his duty independently.

(Copy.)

We the undersigned beg leave to say that we were present at the meeting held in the school-room in Cape Coast Castle on the 6th instant, and we consider this a correct abstract of the proceedings which then took place.

Signed by *Wm. Mayne*,
Captain Gold Coast Corps, and Justice of the Peace,
and seven others.

Sub-Enclosure 7, to Enclosure 2, in No. 14.

Gentlemen, Cape Coast Castle, 9 September 1853.

Sub-Encl. 7, to Encl. 2, in No. 14.

Pray accept of my most sincere and grateful thanks for your generous and manly conduct in waiting on me last evening in a body, and inviting me to dine with you to-day. I feel that your doing so was no idle compliment, but an expression of opinion, which the promptings of generous dispositions as well as a sense of duty urged you to under the peculiar circumstances in which I am now placed, and let me assure you that this sympathy on your part will be an additional motive for my persevering, despite all threats and dangers, in the course which I have hitherto pursued in maintaining the independence and impartiality of the administration of justice, the sacred trust which is reposed in me.

I am also happy to remind you that if I wanted an example for doing so, I have it in the conduct of your own commanding officer. When he issued his proclamation against slave and pawn holding in these settlements by educated natives in 1852, the same clamour was raised by the same men against him which has now been made use of against me, but he met it on its merits and put it down.

Having said that I am so much obliged to you, you will not be surprised that I beg you to excuse my accepting of your invitation to dinner this evening.

In a small society, you know how simple matters are sometimes misunderstood and misrepresented, and my friendship for you all is too real to permit me to be, by any possibility, the cause of any disagreeable feeling arising between you and the Lieutenant-governor, under whom you will have to serve for some time. Pray again accept my hearty thanks, and believe me to be

Your obliged and faithful friend.

Captain M'Court, and the Officers of the Garrison. (No Signature.)

Sub-Enclosure 8, to Enclosure 2, in No. 14.

Extract, No. 1, Record (F.), p. 197.

17 August 1853.

Before Joseph Smith, Henry William Firth, Charles Clouston, John M'Court, and T. Kehoe, Esquires, Justices of the Peace.

Sub-Encl. 8, to Encl. 2, in No. 14.

The King having appeared, the complaint brought by Quabrino Arkoon, Coffee Anseykoo, and Quacoo Macaco, was further investigated, and the charge not having been proven, Gerrard W. Marman, King Coffee Emissa, and Arquah, were all acquitted, the King being cautioned to observe mildness in the future execution of his official duties.

(True Extract.)

(signed) *James M. Hansen,*
Clerk to the Judicial Assessor.

Sub-Enclosure 9, to Enclosure 2, in No. 14.

Extract, No. 2, Record (F.), p. 198.

17 August 1852.

Sub-Encl. 9, to Encl. 2, in No. 14.

Recognizance entered into this day by Coffee Emissah, King of Cape Coast, who hereby engages and binds himself to pay unto our Lady the Queen, the sum of 10 *l.* sterling, in the event that he shall, in the exercise of his authority as a native chief, exceed his power and offer cruelty or oppression to offenders who may be brought before him. This recognizance to extend over a period of six months from this date.

his
King Coffee × Emissah,
mark.

Executed before us, this 17th day of August 1852,

(signed) *Charles Clouston,* J. P.
Joseph Smith, J. P.
H. W. Firth, J. P.

(True Extract.)

(signed) *James M. Hansen,*
Clerk to the Judicial Assessor.

— No. 15. —

No. 15.
H. Merivale, Es
to Governor Hil
16 November 18

COPY of LETTER from *H. Merivale*, Esq., to Governor *Hill*.

Sir, Downing-street, 16 November 1853.

WITH reference to my letter* of the 11th ultimo, I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to transmit to you for your information copy of a despatch from Mr. B. Cruickshank, written since he assumed the administration of the government of the Gold Coast, in reference to the charges he had previously brought against Mr. Fitzpatrick, with regard to his conduct in dealing with certain unrepresented estates.

* Page 36.

No. 75.—12 Se
1853, 35.

I am, &c.

(signed) *H. Merivale.*

— No. 16. —

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from the Duke of *Newcastle* to Lieutenant-Governor *Cruickshank*, No. 65; dated Downing-street, 24 November 1853.

No. 16.
Duke of Newcas
to Acting Lieut.
Gov. Cruicksha
24 November 18

I HAVE to acknowledge your despatch, No. 72,* of the 7th September last, transmitting a petition from certain parties at Cape Coast, enclosed to you in a letter from four native merchants of the place, who style themselves the representatives of the town, praying for the dismissal of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor.

* Page 28.

2. In the same despatch you report the particulars of a meeting which had taken place, by your appointment, between the principal petitioners and Mr. Fitzpatrick, and your own ultimate decision to grant Mr. Fitzpatrick leave of absence on full salary, until the pleasure of the Secretary of State should be taken as to his remaining in office.

3. It is scarcely necessary for me to observe on the extreme irregularity of these proceedings. To get rid of an obnoxious or unpopular officer by the device of granting him leave of absence, when no cause can be found for suspending him, is an exercise of power in which principle and justice are sacrificed to a supposed immediate convenience, and can rarely be indulged in without the most prejudicial effects to the public service.

4. But the irregularity which I have here noticed is, unfortunately, by far the least serious objection which I have to take to the course of conduct into which you have been led. I have sought in vain in your despatch for any grievance whatever alleged on even plausible grounds, to have been inflicted by Mr. Fitzpatrick on those among whom he has to exercise an office full of difficulty. For the supposed affront to the native chief, by making him defendant in an ordinary civil action, is one which I must pass over as wholly unworthy of notice, until I am more distinctly informed of the nature of the claims of this person to be exempted from the ordinary course of justice recognised at Cape Coast Town; and the few other intelligible charges advanced at the meeting, against Mr. Fitzpatrick, are most distinctly negatived by yourself.

5. The cause therefore which has led to this substantial dismissal of Mr. Fitzpatrick is, simply, that you thought the case called for this concession to a popular clamour, of which you are the first to recognise the utter injustice.

6. I can find no ground whatever in your despatch for the necessity of a concession, so obviously discreditable to the British Government, and so much calculated to weaken its authority among the people of the Gold Coast, who, whatever their prejudices may be, are fully capable of recognising the display of firmness and justice as the proper attribute of the protecting power.

7. That Mr. Fitzpatrick should be personally unpopular, among a large number of the people of Cape Coast Town, is natural enough. His judicial duties bring him into constant collision with the prejudices and interests of the population; and no one is ignorant of the sympathy which often prevails in an imperfectly educated community, with those who are visited by justice on account of offences against which public opinion is not as yet sufficiently pronounced. If he has the defects of manner which you attribute to him, these, of course, render it more difficult for him to combat this unpopularity, although I have yet to learn that any serious exception has been taken to him, on this account, among the numerous tribes and local potentates along the coast, who are placed in communication with him through his judicial functions. But unpopularity of this kind, resting on no substantial basis, is in general easily met, if the officer exposed to it has the support and countenance of his superiors. I am compelled to suppose in this case that such support and countenance were not sufficiently given him.

8. But, in point of fact, the petition was urged upon you by the four persons subscribing the letter of the 29th of August, and your proceedings upon it must, necessarily, be interpreted as a concession to these popular leaders, and yet you represent them yourself as mere tribunes, whose influence with the people ought by no means to be increased by concession.

* * * * *

9. Yet it was before men thus circumstanced, and a number of people of all classes, collected under their influence, that you thought it proper to bring to account a high officer of the British Government, and a man of recognised honour and rectitude in the discharge of his duty, and this on accusations of which the mere frivolousness is recognised by yourself. It is difficult to conceive a course more calculated to purchase for that Government a temporary popularity at the expense of permanent loss of character. I do not apprehend the serious consequences which your despatch suggests, from the maintenance of Mr. Fitzpatrick in his office against the will of these people; but most assuredly these consequences ought to be incurred rather than averted by such means as you have adopted.

10. Mr. Fitzpatrick is now in England; I have informed him that I regard the proceedings against him as wholly irregular, and that I do not consider him as in the ordinary position of an officer who is here on leave of absence; but that he will return to the execution of his duties as soon as he conveniently can after this displacement.

In the meantime I have to sanction the temporary arrangement which you have made for the discharge of those duties.

— No. 17. —

(No. 100.)

No. 17. Lieut.-Governor Cruickshank to the Duke of Newcastle. 31 December 1853.

Copy of DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Cruickshank* to the Duke of *Newcastle*.

Cape Coast Castle, 31 December 1853.

My Lord Duke, (Received, 13 February 1854.)

* Page 51.

I have the honour to acknowledge your Grace's despatch,* No. 65, animadverting in terms of the most unqualified censure upon the measures which I considered it necessary to take in reference to the petition from the chiefs of Cape Coast, praying for the dismissal of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the judicial assessor.

2. After such a decided expression of your Grace's disapprobation, it would be in vain in me to attempt to justify my acts with any hope of mitigating your Grace's displeasure or of obtaining for my proceedings in this matter a more favourable construction than your Grace has seen fit to accord, I therefore bow to your Grace's decision with the utmost deference and submission. At the same time, I am deeply pained to find that my hopes of meriting your Grace's

Grace's approbation by a fearless and conscientious discharge of my duty should have been so cruelly disappointed.

3. But there are some expressions in your Grace's despatch of so harsh a nature, that they appear to me to cast a reflection upon my honour and veracity, which no one conscious of the purity of his intentions can suffer to have suspected without an attempt to vindicate himself. Your Grace's high sense of honour will therefore, I trust, plead your indulgence with me, if I venture to offer a few observations in extenuation of my conduct, and will impute them to the sensitiveness of an honourable mind, smarting under a misconstruction of the most painful nature, and not to any want of that due deference and submission, which I sincerely profess to entertain for your Grace's decision.

4. With reference to your Grace's remarks (para. 3) upon the irregularity of my proceedings, I would most respectfully submit to your Grace, that the 36th para. of Her Majesty's letter of instructions to the Governor seemed, according to my interpretation of it, to bear me out in relieving Mr. Fitzpatrick temporarily of his judicial functions, if I were of opinion that the emergency contemplated in those instructions really existed. It can now serve me nothing beyond the satisfaction which it affords to my own mind, to affirm most solemnly, that I did and do sincerely believe in the existence of that emergency, and so believing, I did not expect that an expedient which I considered authorised by Her Majesty's instructions, would be regarded as a sacrifice of principle and justice. History furnishes numerous instances, where it has been found necessary to remove public officers who have rendered themselves obnoxious to the people, in order to prevent an outbreak, and not a few, where public indignation has ended in butchery. In such cases the guilt or innocence of the obnoxious individual has frequently had nothing to do with the popular fury. A Dutch governor was taken out of his house at Elmina and cruelly butchered, because he had offended the prejudices of the people. An English commandant received similar treatment from the people of Winnebah, and only a few years ago Major Derx, the judicial officer at Elmina, was rescued from a similar fate by the fortunate interposition of an influential merchant of the place, who saved him from the miserable fate of being drowned by an enraged mob. Mr. Fitzpatrick had himself previously, on two different occasions, been assaulted at Appolonia and Anamaboe. With those examples of the very excitable and ungovernable disposition of the natives of this country, when their passions have been fully roused, and with such distinct proofs of the bitterness of their animosity against Mr. Fitzpatrick; aware also of our very anomalous jurisdiction in the country, and of the frequent cautions conveyed by your Grace and former Secretaries of State to the governors of these settlements, to be very guarded in their interference with the existing rights and privileges of the natives under our protection; I confess that I acted under the conviction that the rejection of their petition would have been followed either by the assassination of Mr. Fitzpatrick, or of a serious riot involving bloodshed, and that blame would have been attached to me for incurring the risk of such consequences after having received the statement of their grievances. Although in my despatch, I acquitted Mr. Fitzpatrick of any act which, according to English ideas and having reference to an Englishman, would be considered unjust, yet your Grace will admit, that a people in the condition of the natives of the Gold Coast are not in a position to acknowledge the standard of justice applicable to an Englishman as suited to themselves, and when English forms of law are forced upon them without any previous consent on their part, and in direct opposition to their established customs, laws, and privileges, it is impossible to convince them that they have not been treated with injustice. Many of Mr. Fitzpatrick's acts were, according to the interpretation of the natives here, liable to this imputation, and I accordingly expressed my conviction, that they believed they had grievances to complain of in the manner of their treatment. "If the opposition to him had been a mere public clamour, instigated by a few interested individuals, and resting upon no intelligible grounds of complaint, I should have maintained him in office against the united hostility of the whole country, and at every sacrifice, being well assured of being fully supported under such circumstances by your Grace; but when (as I have already observed in my former despatch) I knew "the feeling against him to be much more extensive and arising from other causes" than the instigation of the self-styled

representatives of the town; when I was myself conscious of his having outraged the feelings of the people apart from his judicial acts, and that in these he had sometimes exercised unnecessary severity, and had given too little consideration to their prejudices in favour of their own laws and customs, and to the suitableness of his reforms to the state of social progress; when moreover, by a perusal of several of your Grace's despatches and those of former Secretaries of State, I had seen that a serious responsibility would attach to any governor in the event of a collision with the natives, arising out of an interference with their acknowledged rights and privileges, I did consider myself justified in having recourse to the measure which your Grace has so strongly reprobated. If I could have anticipated such a declaration of your Grace's sentiments as is contained in the conclusion of the 9th para. of your Grace's despatch, I need not observe, that I should have felt myself at liberty to act in a very different manner; and however unfortunate it may be for myself, I have done more to strengthen the hands of this government by calling forth such an expression from your Grace, than if, without such an avowal, I had levelled the town of Cape Coast to the ground to support Mr. Fitzpatrick in his authority; and I rejoice much at the advantageous position which a knowledge of this declaration, extensively disseminated among the people, is calculated to give to the government of these settlements in its endeavours to improve and elevate their condition.

* Page 34.

5. I have already pointed out in my despatch,* No. 74, wherein I considered Mr. Fitzpatrick's conduct in reference to the trial of the king unprecedented and injudicious. Your Grace considers the complaint in reference to it unworthy of notice, until informed of this chief's claims to be exempted from the ordinary course of justice recognised at Cape Coast. It was the manner of the trial that was objected to by the people, which was perfectly new in the case of a chief; and the verdict of acquittal was a sufficient expression of the sentiments of the jury upon the subject. The chief of Cape Coast is as amenable to justice, according to the forms hitherto observed, as the meanest person in the town; but those forms cannot be neglected without exciting popular discontent. It has been considered very heinous for the King of England to be tried by his subjects. An English nobleman would object to be tried by any but his peers. There might no substantial injustice be done by a non-recognition of the privileges of particular classes; but if an established precedent be set aside, and new forms substituted without any previous consent of the parties interested, I consider it an invasion of a privilege calculated to excite popular discontent. Mr. Fitzpatrick, as judicial assessor, was simply the assistant of the native chiefs, and, properly considered, could only legally sit in judgment upon the chief of Cape Coast, as assessor in a court of chiefs. There is, I conceive, a wide difference in this manner of trial and that pursued in the case referred to, where the chief was tried by a jury composed partly of his own subjects. If their rights are to be disregarded in one point, they may, with equal propriety, be set aside in all; and the judicial assessor had as much authority to deprive the natives under our protection of their slaves, and to introduce the law of England altogether into the country, as to subject the chief to what was considered by himself and his people as a degrading form of trial, without their previous assent. It might be advantageous to reduce chiefs to the same level as others in this respect, and also to enforce our views to the extent of our ability, regardless of any opposition arising out of their supposed rights; but I have much mistaken our position in the country, and the views of Her Majesty's Government, as expressed in several of your Grace's despatches, if such an exercise of authority would be supported by Her Majesty's Government.

6. If I had attempted to injure Mr. Fitzpatrick in your Grace's estimation by a report unfriendly to him, I might with reason be accused of having "sacrificed principle and justice"; but I have in my despatch to your Grace fully acknowledged his merits, without dwelling upon circumstances which might have militated against him, or too narrowly inquiring into charges which were capable of a doubtful interpretation. My sole object was to have your Grace's assurance of support before I risked a collision with the people; and I announced at the public meeting the probability of your Grace taking the view of the case which you have done, and my ability, readiness, and determination

to

to coerce them under such circumstances. My act was never regarded by the natives as a concession arising from weakness, but as an act of justice to them, which their deep consciousness of injury led them to attribute to the sense which I entertained of their grievances; nor has it had any effect in weakening the authority of, or of throwing discredit upon, the Government, for where the sense of injury is strong (and strong it was, however difficult it may be for men of more enlightened ideas to sympathise with it), its redress only more and more increases their attachment to the protecting power. If I have been guilty of injustice, it is to myself that I have been unjust, in not entering more at large into the peculiar nature of many of the charges preferred against Mr. Fitzpatrick, and which were neither referred to in the petition from the people, nor in my despatch, but which were hurriedly read over without any particular investigation at the public meeting. I do not consider that he has suffered by my act, for nothing which I could have said or done would have had any weight in removing the impressions of the people with regard to him, and your Grace's high approval of his conduct far outweighs the antipathy of the natives, and will enable him to resume his functions with increased prospects of usefulness.

7. I would be farther unjust to myself if I were to allow your Grace to remain under the impression that my proceedings must be interpreted as a concession to the popular leaders. If the expressed antipathy of the people had been attributable to their machinations, without any feeling of injury on their own part, it would have been a very simple matter to deal with the petitioners, and I observed in my despatch to your Grace, that the feeling against him was much more extensive and arising from other causes than their instigation; and one proof of this is, that I prevailed upon those men to exert their influence with the people to have the petition withdrawn, but they were perfectly powerless to do so. My reason for urging this course upon them was, because Mr. Fitzpatrick had previously given out among his friends that he intended soon to leave the coast, and as their object was to get rid of him, it would be better that they should not put forward their charges, seeing that their end was likely to be attained by his own voluntary act. As the representations of those leaders had no influence with me whatever in the proceedings which I took, I did not think it necessary to give any detailed account respecting them, farther than to inform your Grace of the position which they had assumed in reference to the townspeople; and I should have thought that my strongly expressed opinion with regard to them would have shown that their representations could not have been allowed to influence me, without subjecting myself to the charge of the grossest inconsistency. I had heard nothing of the legal proceedings against Mr. Barnes and Mr. Smith until after the receipt of the petition, and Mr. Fitzpatrick's letter to me on the subject was only handed to me after I had sent the petition of the people to him for his perusal. I am unwilling to allow myself to think that your Grace considers me capable of making a representation which I myself regarded as worthless, but it is with pain that I perceive that the concluding sentence of the 8th paragraph of your Grace's despatch conveys this impression, and it convinces me how entirely I have forfeited your Grace's confidence by what I believed could only, under any circumstances, be regarded as an error of judgment.

8. I cannot take leave of this subject without alluding to a circumstance, which, although not referred to in your Grace's despatch, was nevertheless, as I am credibly informed, brought under your Grace's notice. It would appear that Mr. Fitzpatrick gained your Grace's assent to the great probability of the truth of a representation made by him to your Grace, that I had, previously to any knowledge or expectation of my being appointed Lieutenant-Governor, been intriguing with the people to get up this petition, and that in consequence of those intrigues I could not stultify my share in them by retaining him in office. I repel such a vile insinuation with the utmost indignation, and I challenge the most searching investigation into every part of my conduct with reference to this petition. I had no knowledge of it whatever until it was placed in my hands, and my first impulse on reading it was to get it withdrawn; and that I did not succeed in doing so is surely some proof that it did not originate with me. But I am ashamed to find myself in so humiliating a

position as to require to refute an accusation so utterly dishonourable, and I only do so lest my silence after having heard of the gross calumny should be misconstrued into guilt, and I trust that your Grace will acquit me of a baseness which, I believe, few who know me would lay to my charge.

9. I have perhaps dwelt too long upon this painful subject, but I am unwilling to be misunderstood. After your Grace's expressions I have no hesitation in acknowledging that I have been guilty of an error of judgment, but more than this I cannot acknowledge, and this error has arisen from a misconception of the extent of the British authority in this country, acknowledged by Her Majesty's Government. I was solely actuated in all that I did by a sincere desire to promote the welfare of these settlements, and this consciousness supports me under your Grace's severe displeasure, which I at the same time most deeply deplore.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Cruickshank.*

Correspondence with Mr. Fitzpatrick.

— No. 18. —

No. 18.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq. to the Duke of Newcastle.
7 December 1853.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Duke of *Newcastle*.

My Lord Duke, London, 7 December 1853.

I HAVE the honour to request that your Grace may be good enough to favour me with your instructions under the following circumstances.

In the month of January last I pronounced a decree on the Gold Coast in a cause entitled Marman *v.* Bannerman, under which a considerable amount of property has been seized and disposed of. As the judicial assessor on the Gold Coast discharges the duties of sheriff also, the amount realised under this decree came into my possession, and I have received notice from some of the parties in the case not to part with the money as they contemplate an appeal to the Privy Council, or some other ulterior proceedings.

From the circumstances of the Gold Coast some payments under this decree have been made to me by bills on England, which I was necessarily obliged to send to this country for collection, and I have now the entire amount realised in my possession here, and I have the honour to request your Grace's instructions as to the disposal of it, and also that I may be informed in what professional man's hands I am to place the matter in the event of my being made a party to any proceedings in this country. I have also in my possession a few smaller sums arising out of other official proceedings which have been paid to me in this country, and I beg to ask your Grace's permission to pay these into the hands of the colonial agent to the credit of the Gold Coast Government, which I apprehend will answer all the purposes of a lodgment of the money itself in the public chest at Cape Coast Castle.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 19. —

No. 19
J. C. Fitzpatr
Esq., to H. M
vale, Esq.
22 December

COPY of a LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to *H. Merivale*, Esq.

My Dear Sir, K. 3, Albany, 22 December 1853.

SINCE I last saw you I have been served with a writ at the suit of the defendant in the case of Marman *v.* Bannerman, so in replying to my official letter I should feel obliged by your not overlooking that fact when I ask what professional man I am to instruct.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 20. —

No. 20
F. Peel, Esq.,
to J. C. Fitzp
rick, Esq.
28 December

COPY of a LETTER from *F. Peel*, Esq., M.P., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 28 December 1853.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acknowledge your letters of the 7th and 22d of this month, in which you request for instructions as to certain funds which are now in your hands in this country, being the proceeds of official proceedings had in your character of judicial assessor; and in the second of which you state that a writ has been served on you at the instance of the defendant in a suit entitled Marman *v.* Bannerman, in respect of a certain portion of these funds.

I am to state, that on the best consideration which the Duke of Newcastle can give the subject, he is not aware that your position, in respect of this suit, can be regarded by him as different from that of any sheriff of a colony who might accidentally be in England, and be sought to be fixed with a similar liability by private parties, in which case, as in that of English sheriffs similarly circumstanced, Her Majesty's Government could in no way interfere in their defence. His Grace is therefore obliged to leave you to take such steps in the matter as you may be yourself advised. Should any question hereafter arise in the course of these proceedings, which may be properly deemed of a public character, any application on your part will receive attention.

With regard to the other sums mentioned in the latter part of your letter of the 7th, his Grace sees no objection to your depositing them for the present with the colonial agent, Mr. Baillie, and he will be instructed to receive them accordingly, with an account of the various parties on whose behalf they are retained.

I am, &c.

(signed) *F. Peel.*

— No. 21. —

No. 21
J. C. Fitzpatr
Esq., to the D
of Newcastle.
18 March 1

COPY of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Duke of *Newcastle*.

My Lord Duke, Albany, 18 March 1854.

YOUR Grace may have possibly observed in the public press, that a suit having been instituted by the administrator in this country, in reference to property belonging to a party who died in the territory of a native prince on the Gold Coast, the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Page Wood, has decided to submit to your Grace, under provision of the Act 6 & 7 Vict. c. 94, the following questions:

"Whether the Queen had at any time exercised any jurisdiction with respect to the administration of the personal estate of persons dying intestate at Cape

Coast Town? and if so, to what extent, and in what matter, in what Court, and by what officer had it been exercised?" I beg therefore to state to your Grace the manner in which I have acted, in accordance with the usage followed by my predecessor since the before mentioned Act, and the course which he had previously pursued.

In the case of wills, or intestacy, where there has been a relative on the spot, I have only given the sanction of my authority to the party claiming under such will, or such relative, so as to assist them in realising the estate, but have not, unless specially requested by all parties interested, interfered further. But in cases in which the party died intestate, without leaving any relative on the Coast, I have, with the distinct approval and under direction of the Governors, as explained in a despatch from me in the Colonial Office, acted as the representative of such party; have realised the property to the best advantage; have called on all creditors whom I could ascertain to state their debts; have divided the produce amongst such as proved their debts, and if there has been any surplus have paid it into the Colonial Chest for remittance to the next of kin. In fact, I have acted as administrator, and in every case, whether of surplus or insolvency, have passed my accounts before the Governor, and charged 7 *l.* 10 *s.* commission, which mode of proceeding I have shown to be usual and customary, by documents recently transmitted to the Colonial Office.

In doing this, I have acted in accordance with the usage which existed on my assumption of office, and also in as close harmony as possible with an Ordinance passed in the colony of Sierra Leone in reference to unrepresented estates in that colony, the principal difference being that on the Gold Coast, the 2 *l.* 10 *s.* per cent. for a reserved fund, in addition to the 7 *l.* 10 *s.* for the receiver, has not been deducted.

I need not trouble your Grace with the great importance and advantage, as well to the British as to the native creditor, of the course which has been followed by me and my predecessor.

If such jurisdiction were not exercised, the property of a deceased trader would be taken by the first claimant and dissipated without any means of redress. If it were got possession of first by a native, it is probable that the distant English creditor would be little thought of, while the agent of an English merchant might not be more careful of native rights. It was doubtless under such considerations and to afford those mutual benefits, that Mr. Maclean, originally as Governor, took upon himself to act as administrator of such unrepresented estates. The same duties have been performed since the creation, in 1843, of the office of judicial assessor, in conformity with previous usage.

To myself personally, the decision of this question is of small importance, but I cannot but feel that unless the judicial assessor, or some other servant of the Queen, be enabled to discharge as heretofore these duties, and to act as administrator of estates so circumstanced, a large portion of his utility will be lost, and serious injury and money will be the inevitable result.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 22. —

No. 22.
. Fitzpatrick, ., to the Duke Newcastle. March 1854.

Copy of a LETTER from *James C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Duke of *Newcastle.*

My Lord Duke, Albany, 23 March 1854.

In reference to the certificate from Dr. Copeland as to the state of my health, which I enclosed to your Grace privately yesterday, in my letter of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inform your Grace that my state of health is exactly as described in that document. I therefore take leave respectfully

respectfully to solicit your Grace to grant me 12 months' leave of absence, and appoint some gentleman, *ad interim*, to discharge my duties on the Gold Coast; and within that period I would hope that your Grace may have an opportunity of transferring me to a more genial climate than that in which I have already suffered so much.

I trust that without arrogating any undeserved merit to myself, I may expect that the manner in which I have for the last six years discharged very anomalous and varied duties, may recommend me to your Grace's favourable consideration.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 23. —

No. 23.
F. Peel, Esq., M.P., to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq.
28 April 1854.

COPY of a LETTER from *F. Peel*, Esq., M.P., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 28 April 1854.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d ultimo, requesting his Grace to grant you 12 months' leave of absence from the Gold Coast, and to appoint some gentleman, *ad interim*, to discharge your duties, and I am to acquaint you in reply that his Grace has not been able to find any competent person willing to take your duties for a twelvemonth, and he has no alternative therefore but to direct you to return to the Gold Coast in accordance with the desire which the Governor has expressed on that subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Peel.*

— No. 24. —

No. 24.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to the Duke of Newcastle.
3 May 1854.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Duke of *Newcastle*.

My Lord Duke, London, 3 May 1854.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of Mr. Secretary Peel, of the 28th ultimo, informing me that your Grace, not having been able to find a competent person to take my duties for a twelvemonth, has no alternative but to direct my return to the Gold Coast, in compliance with the requisition of the Governor.

I feel deeply sensible of your Grace's goodness in taking my application for leave of absence into your favourable consideration; but as that cannot be complied with, I beg leave now to state the circumstances in which I am placed, and the responsibilities I have incurred, by certain acts done in the discharge of my official duty on the Gold Coast.

Your Grace is aware that the office of "judicial assessor" was created on the recommendation of a Committee of the House of Commons on the affairs of the West Coast of Africa, which sat in the year 1842; and this exercise of jurisdiction by Her Majesty, in those countries out of Her dominions, was declared to be legal by the 6 & 7 Vict., c. 94.

On the death of Mr. Maclean, who had been for many years President of the Council of Merchants on the Gold Coast, and in compliance with the recommendation of the Committee of the House of Commons, that a barrister should be selected for that office, Earl Grey, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, was pleased to appoint me judicial assessor.

The creation of the office, and the Act of Parliament sanctioning it, being thus recent, I could necessarily receive but very limited instructions, as to the

nature of my duties. In point of fact, I received none, either here or on the Gold Coast, except an intimation from Mr. Hawes that I was to administer justice of every description; and my warrant, under the sign manual, merely nominates me "assessor or assistant to the native sovereigns and chiefs of the countries adjacent to Her Majesty's forts and settlements on the Gold Coast," without any statement or indication of the duties attached to that office.

Acting in this capacity, I was, in the month of January 1853, called upon to adjudicate in a case of considerable importance, in the nature of an action of trover, between a person named John Marman and James Bannerman, who appeared as the representative of the late firm of W. B. Hutton & Son, of London. It is unnecessary for me to trouble your Grace with the particulars of this case, further than to say that, acting to the best of my judgment, I decided in favour of the plaintiff, and issued execution, under which several thousand pounds were levied. Marman, the plaintiff, has little interest in the result, the proceedings having been carried on for the benefit of his creditors.

The defendants, however, deny the propriety of my decision, and dispute the authority under which I acted; and they have been advised to seek redress by way of a personal action against me, in one of the superior courts of Westminster. This action is now in progress, the damages being laid at 20,000 *l.* Mr. Thomas Hutton, of Cape Coast, has also commenced an action against me, arising out of the former case, laying his damages at 2,000 *l.*; and Messrs. Forster & Smith, using the name of Mr. Hervey, have filed a bill in equity, which has not yet come on for hearing; and they have given notice of their intention to file another bill, in the name of a Mr. Clouston.

My counsel advise me, as your Grace will perceive by the Enclosures, and indeed it must be evident to any person, that my presence in this country is absolutely necessary for the defence of these actions; and as their defence really means nothing but the vindication of the authority which I have exercised, under and by virtue of the Queen's warrant, I trust your Grace will consider that in remaining in this country for that purpose I shall only be discharging a public duty.

As to the personal consequences to me of the success of these actions, it is unnecessary to say that, in a pecuniary sense, it would be total ruin But in another sense, it is much more important to me and to Her Majesty's Government.

I beg to remind your Grace that I have had more than once to discharge the most painful duty that falls to the lot of an administrator of justice, that of sentencing a fellow-creature to capital punishment; and in the year 1849 Lord Grey instructed me, then administering the Government, that I must bear, myself, the responsibility of carrying out, or not, the sentences which I had pronounced.

Now, I respectfully submit for your Grace's consideration, that although I have been fortunate enough to have met with the approbation of every successive Governor and Secretary of State under whom I have served, for the manner in which I discharged my duty, yet if any of the plaintiffs in these civil actions should succeed in maintaining that the authority under which I acted could not be sustained, it would not, I apprehend, be difficult to fix upon me the heavier responsibility to which I have alluded.

May 1854.

Page 61.

I beg leave to enclose a letter from my solicitors, and a notice of action, which will explain the exact stage in which each of these cases is at present; and I respectfully submit to your Grace that it is impossible for me to leave this country whilst these actions are pending. At the same time, as I am aware of the necessity which exists on the Gold Coast for some person to discharge my duties, I feel bound, on receiving an intimation of your Grace's wish to that effect, to place in your hands my appointment, so as to remove the difficulty which your Grace at present appears to labour under.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

Enclosure in No. 24. Encl. in No. 24.

Dear Sir, 15, Gordon-square, 4 May 1854.

We have little difficulty in answering your inquiries.

The first action brought by the representatives of the Hattons has broken down in consequence of a technical omission of the plaintiffs, but they have given notice under the Act of 6 & 7 Victoria, and issued another writ claiming damages for your alleged unwarranted proceedings. It rests to a great extent with the plaintiffs when they bring this action to trial, but the defence will be impossible unless you be present and are examined as a witness, as we understand that they rely not so much upon merits as upon the form of the proceedings followed by you on the Gold Coast, and the want of legality in your authority.

Mr. Lush expressly advised that your presence was essential to the defence.

In Hervey's case your presence is equally necessary as well to meet the very broad assertions which the plaintiffs appear to be ready to make, as also to explain to the Court the circumstances under which this portion of your functions arose and have been exercised, as well by your predecessor, as by yourself.

We have received notice of an intention to file a bill in the matter of a person named Clouston, but no steps have yet been taken.

We are, &c.

J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq. (signed) *Wright, Smith & Shepherd.*

— No. 25. —

No. 25.

Copy of a LETTER from *F. Peel*, Esq., M.P., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq. F. Peel, Esq., M.P. to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq. 17 May 1854.

Sir, Downing-street, 17 May 1854.

I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant,* enclosing a letter from your solicitors, and a notice of action, showing the stage in which the several cases, in which you are concerned, are at present, and stating that, as it is impossible for you to leave this country whilst these actions are pending, you feel bound, on receiving an intimation of his Grace's wish to that effect, to place in his hands your appointments as judicial assessor and chief justice at the Gold Coast.

His Grace desires me to acquaint you in reply, that he has no alternative but to accept your resignation, and he regrets this the more as he sees little chance of being able to confer on you another appointment, although he would be very glad of an opportunity of doing so.

I am, &c.

(signed) *F. Peel.*

* Page 59.

— No. 26. —

No. 26.

Copy of a LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Duke of *Newcastle*. J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to the Duke of Newcastle. 19 May 1854.

My Lord Duke, London, 19 May 1854.

In compliance with the intimation conveyed to me by Mr. Peel's letter of the 17th instant, I have now the honour formally to resign my office of judicial assessor and chief justice of the Gold Coast. In doing so I beg leave to offer my acknowledgments of the justice and consideration with which I have been treated since I entered the colonial service, but more especially by your Grace, in the manner in which you did me the honour to receive me on my return to this country under peculiar circumstances; and for the continuance of your Grace's favourable opinion, as intimated by the expression of your willingness to avail yourself of any fit opportunity that might offer of conferring upon me another appointment.

I leave myself therefore in your Grace's hands, confident that your sense of justice will not allow it to be forgotten that this personal sacrifice has been incurred by the necessity cast upon me of vindicating the position in which I was placed by Her Majesty, and the utility and propriety of those duties which have for more than six years been discharged by me, with the sanction and approval of my superiors, as well in England as on the Gold Coast, under whom I have had the honour to serve.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 27. —

No. 27.
F. Peel, Esq., M.P., to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq.
29 May 1854.

COPY of a LETTER from *F. Peel*, Esq., M.P., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 29 May 1854.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, tendering the resignation of your offices of judicial assessor and chief justice of the Gold Coast, and I am to acquaint you that his Grace is pleased to accept the same.

I am to add, to avoid future misapprehension, that his Grace does not fully apprehend the necessity under which you state yourself to have been placed of resigning your situation by reason of your having been compelled to vindicate the position in which you were placed by Her Majesty's Government, but that he has much pleasure in adding his testimony to those which have been borne by his predecessors, to the energy and ability with which you have discharged the duties of your office.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Peel.*

— No. 28. —

No. 28.
H. Merivale, Esq., to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq.
22 August 1854.
* Page 57.

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Merivale*, Esq., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 22 August 1854.

WITH reference to the last paragraph of my letter of the 28th December last,* authorising you, in compliance with your request, to deposit with the colonial agent certain sums of money arising out of your official proceedings on the Gold Coast, I am directed by Secretary Sir G. Grey to acquaint you that Mr. Baillie has informed him that you have now declined to pay those amounts. Sir G. Grey would therefore be glad if you would inform him what these sums are, and the reasons which have induced you not to deposit them with the agent, as you proposed.

(signed) *H. Merivale.*

— No. 29. —

No. 29.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to Herman Merivale, Esq.
25 August 1854.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to *Herman Merivale*, Esq.

Sir, Albany, 25 August 1854.

IN reply to your letter of the 22d instant I beg to inform you, that the sums which I proposed in December last to pay into the colonial chest at the Gold Coast, through the hands of the colonial agent, were partly the proceeds of the estate of the late James Hervey, deceased, and partly the proceeds of goods taken in execution under a decree pronounced by me on the Gold Coast, in a cause entitled Marman *v.* Bannerman; and the reasons which have prevented my paying these sums into the hands of the colonial agent as I had intended are, that they have been made the subjects of suits at law and equity in this country, by which it is sought to take the disposal of them from the colonial court, and to make me personally liable for my official acts regarding them.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 30. —

No. 30.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to Herman Merivale, Esq.
27 April 1855.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to *Herman Merivale*, Esq.

Sir, Albany, 27 April 1855.

I BEG to request that you will be good enough to call the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and of Her Majesty's Government, to a report, in the accompanying "Times" * newspaper, of the judgment of Sir W. P. Wood, in reference to the functions possessed by me, under the warrant of Her Majesty, as assessor or assistant to the native sovereigns on the Gold Coast.

The result of that judgment is to decide that the warrant in question confers no authority whatever; and as the effect may be very serious, not only as respects myself personally, but the public service, I beg to inquire whether it be the wish of the Government that I should appeal from or acquiesce in this decision; and, in the latter case, I must then ask whether the Government will introduce an act of indemnity to protect me from the consequences of acts done in the *bonâ fide* discharge of duties which I was appointed to fulfil, and which were performed to the entire satisfaction, and with the approval of my superiors; the value of which was even recognised by an adverse judge. As, in the case of an appeal, it is necessary to take immediate steps, I must beg the favour of an early reply.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 31. —

No. 31.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to Herman Merivale, Esq.
4 May 1855.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to *Herman Merivale*, Esq.

Sir, Albany, 4 May 1855.

FROM an expression which fell from you, in my interview on yesterday, I fear that you labour under a misapprehension with respect to some of the facts, in regard to the unrepresented estate of the late James Hervey, which it is desirable that I should remove.

You stated that it was unfortunate that I should have brought the assets to this country. That phrase would appear to imply that I might have left them in Africa, if I felt so disposed; whereas the fact is, that I sent them to this country solely for the purpose of their being realised, and because I had no other means of having that done. The portion which was, or could be realised in Africa, about 400*l.*, I lodged in the Colonial Chest before leaving the Gold Coast.

I also wish to impress on your mind that no other course has ever been suggested to me by any person, save Messrs. Forster & Smith, who say that I should have given the entire estate over to them, to the exclusion of all other creditors. I cannot, myself, conceive any other course by which I could have carried out the manifest intentions of Her Majesty's Government; and although I do not presume to say that your professional experience may not possibly suggest a different one, I beg of you to bear in mind that I never had the benefit of that experience, not having had even the honour of an interview with you before I went to the Gold Coast; and having received nothing in the way of instructions as to the duties of my office, with the exception of a conversation with Mr. Hawes, in which he gave me to understand that my jurisdiction was to be practically unlimited, or restricted only by the necessity of maintaining in any proceedings an analogy with English law, and securing, in all cases, substantial justice; adding that, in so doing, I should have the support of the Government; and if I recollect rightly, this is nearly the language of Lord Stanley's despatch, written on the creation of the office of judicial assessor.

I also

* *Vide* "Times" newspaper of the 27th April 1855.

I also beg to remind you, that the first case of an unrepresented estate in which I interfered was that of one, to whom the colonial government was tenant, and I was required by the Governor to receive the rent and expend money in repairs, &c.

I shall feel obliged by your laying this letter at the same time with my last communication before the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

No. 32.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to H. Merivale, Esq.
17 May 1855.

— No. 32. —

COPY of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to *H. Merivale*, Esq.

Sir, Albany, 17 May 1855.

ON the 27th ultimo I took the liberty to call the attention of the Colonial Office to the judgment of Vice-Chancellor Wood, in the suit which had been instituted against me by the administrator of the late Mr. Hervey, and to inquire whether it would be the wish of the Government that I should acquiesce in or appeal from that judgment.

The effect of the decision is virtually to annul the warrant which I had the honour to hold from Her Majesty, as assessor and assistant to the native princes on the Gold Coast. It was laid down distinctly by the Judge, that as the warrant did not in terms expressly confer on me all the authorities belonging to Her Majesty, it practically gave me none; and I am thus held personally responsible, as a wrong doer, for all my acts, however well intentioned or useful they may have been.

The consequences of this judgment are so serious, as well in a constitutional point of view as to myself personally, that I feel compelled to remind the Colonial Office that the time for appealing is fast running out, and that if it should be intended to carry the question to a higher tribunal, it will soon be too late to give effect to such intention.

The enclosed statement of some of the most prominent cases administered by me, as judicial assessor, and of which nearly all have come, more or less, under the notice of the Colonial Office, may be convenient to show the nature of my assumed duties and of the responsibilities to which I am exposed.

On account of my interference in the cases of Hervey, Hutton and Clouston, I am either involved in or threatened with legal proceedings. By admitting that my assumption of power was unwarranted, I might propitiate my antagonists, but having received the approval of successive Secretaries of State, throughout my tenure of office, I feel that I am not at liberty thus to compromise the rights claimed by the Crown, and intended (as I believe) to have been conferred on me, by my appointment; and I beg to record my opinion, that by the creation of the office of judicial assessor, the results contemplated by the House of Commons, in recommending it, have been obtained, and that a respect for law and civilised practices has been instilled into the natives, and a wholesome restraint imposed upon those lawless and irregular practices which had previously obtained among the English and other merchants trading to the Gold Coast.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

Enclosure in No. 32.

STATEMENTS referred to.—CRIMINAL CASES.

Encl. in No. 32.

The Chief Prechy.—THIS man, who claimed to be under British protection, had burned one man and buried another alive. I asserted jurisdiction, and on full proof sentenced him to be hanged. The Governor was about to leave, and declined in any way to interfere to sanction the carrying out of the sentence. Being left as Acting Governor I referred to the Colonial Office for sanction, and in reply was directed to act on my own discretion.

Tyniassie's Case.—This man had insisted on continuing human sacrifices, and had offered up five victims at once. I claimed jurisdiction and sentenced him to seven years' imprisonment or a fine of 100 oz. of gold dust, with security for good conduct. The man acquiesced

acquiesced and was effectually restrained, and the system stopped. Some of the English merchants complained of this as an excess of authority, and brought the case before Lord Grey and the Duke of Newcastle, but they approved of my conduct.

Case of Stanley.—This gentleman was an European magistrate on the Gold Coast; he had improperly flogged and imprisoned a native; the man was subsequently released by order of a superior magistrate. He then laid a complaint for ill-treatment and the magistrate (Stanley) was fined 10*l.* by me. The magistrate was subsequently dismissed on my report. This case formed the subject of a charge against me, which led to a full investigation by Lord Grey, and a complete approval of my conduct in this and the many instances brought under his notice during such investigations.—*See* Despatch No. 52, 1850.

Civil Cases.

Swanzy v. *Inglis.*—Action for debt. Judgment for plaintiff and execution for 400*l.*

Blankson v. *Swanzy.*—Action for an assault. Judgment for plaintiff and damages 100*l.*

Powell v. *Anamoo.*—Action by officer in command of Her Majesty's troops against a native for breach of contract. Judgment for 120*l.*, and paid.

Marman v. *Bannerman, as Agent for Hutton.*—The plaintiff had been sent to Sierra Leone under an untrue accusation, and during his absence his stores had been taken possession of, and his goods sold by the defendant. The defendant appeared, and no question as to jurisdiction was raised, and judgment went for the plaintiff and execution issued, and 7,000*l.* and upwards was realised, but notice was given not to pay the proceeds to the plaintiff, he having become insolvent. The funds are not yet divided, for proceedings have been instituted in England, and others are threatened, on the ground that the judgment on the Gold Coast was illegal.

As Representative of Absent Persons.

Dodd's Case.—This was an absent proprietor of a house occupied by the government, and I was directed by the Governor to receive the rent and to effect some repairs which were necessary, and the balance was paid by me into the Colonial Chest to await the proper claim.

Clouston's Case.—Mr. Clouston died, having appointed an executor, who died before winding up the estate. At his death I took charge of the estate and administered it. This is a very recent case, and was made the matter of complaint to the then Colonial Secretary, by the agent of Mr. G. Forster, jun., but I was given to understand that such a function was within my duty.

No. 33.

No. 33.
J. Ball, Esq., M.P., to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq.
28 May 1855.

Copy of LETTER from *J. Ball*, Esq., M. P., to *James C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 28 May 1855.

I am directed by Lord John Russell to acknowledge your letters of the 27th* ultimo, and 4th* and 17th* of this month, calling his attention to a report in the "Times" newspaper of the judgment of Sir W. Page Wood in the case of Hervey *v.* Fitzpatrick, and inquiring whether it is the wish of the Secretary of State that you should appeal from, or acquiesce in, this decision; and in the latter case, whether Government will introduce an Act of Indemnity to protect you from the consequences of acts done in the *bonâ fide* discharge of your duties as judicial assessor.

* Pages 63 and 64.

2. I am directed to state in reply, that the newspaper report to which you refer his Lordship does not convey sufficient information to enable him to decide on the propriety of appealing; but that Her Majesty's Government cannot, in any event, authorise such an appeal on their own part, or undertake to cover the expenses of it, because, after the best investigation they can give the subject, and to your own statements respecting it in your letter† of the 2d August 1853, and the enclosures to it, and with every desire to do justice to an officer acting in the assumed discharge of his duty, they cannot find that you proceeded under any specific authority from the local or Her Majesty's Government sanctioning your assumption of power to act in all cases as receiver of unrepresented estates, or that you applied for such authority. In the despatch of Lord Stanley of the 18th October 1843, to which you refer, it was, indeed, proposed that "the judicial assessor should be charged with the care of unrepresented estates," but it was expressly added, that "this duty must be vested in him by an enactment of the local Legislature," which, as you are aware, was not done.

† Page 17.

3. Nor do the documents before Lord John Russell disclose any sufficient reason which should induce Her Majesty's Government to take so very unusual a step as the introduction of an Act of Indemnity. Such an Act could only be passed in a case where an officer had exercised his powers by unavoidable or pardonable error while acting on his instructions; and for the reasons above given, Lord John Russell cannot feel satisfied that such is the case in the present instance.

4. But if it be true that the judgment of the Court exposes you to further danger in respect of acts done in the exercise of your ordinary duties as judicial assessor, such as some of those detailed in the "statements" attached to your last letter of the 17th, then an obligation might unquestionably devolve on Her Majesty's Government to protect you against such consequences; and they would feel it an injustice toward you, considering the very indefinite nature of those duties, if you were regarded as entitled to protection only where the law itself on strict construction would afford it.

5. But Lord John Russell is unable to satisfy himself on the papers before him how far this is the case, or how the Vice-Chancellor's decision, that you were not entitled to hold in England assets of Mr. Hervey's estate against that gentleman's representatives involves you in substantial danger as to the validity of all your acts done as assessor on the Gold Coast.

6. On this point he requires further information. If you will state your case, and the ground of your apprehensions in such a shape as would enable him to take a legal opinion upon it, he will immediately submit it to the legal advisers of the Crown, in order to obtain their opinion as to the introduction of such an Act as you suggest.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Ball.*

— No. 34. —

No. 34.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to Right Hon. Lord John Russell.
7 June 1855.

COPY of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, Albany, 7 June 1855.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter* of the 28th ultimo, and shall in consequence endeavour to close as quickly as possible the litigation in which I have been involved.

* Page 65.

I cannot, however, but fear, perhaps erroneously, that there is some misapprehension about this case.

I enclose a copy of the Vice-Chancellor's judgment, which rested, as your Lordship will perceive (paragraphs 5 and 6), upon this simple ground, that the warrant which I had the honour to hold did not affect to confer upon me all the rights, &c. claimed by the Crown in the native territories, and therefore did not justify me in the exercise of any.

Enclosure 1.

As to my duty of administering unrepresented estates, it is, in fact, the only one of my duties respecting which I applied for any specific authority or direction from the local Government, as appears from my letter to the Duke of Newcastle of 2d August 1853. It was by the express order of Governor Winniett that I acted in Dodd's case, and though I regarded this as a precedent, and acted on it in some trifling cases, I did actually receive from Governor Hill a direction, or rather sanction, verbally to act in reference to Hervey and Clouston's estates. I thought little of this at the time, as I considered my interference an ordinary duty, and I enclose the copy of an affidavit recently made by Colonel Hill, which shows the construction which he placed on the functions to be performed under my warrant, in this respect.

Enclosure 2.
Page 71.

Although an ordinance of the local council would be desirable, as preventing probably such harassing proceedings as those to which I have been subjected, it could not in strictness confer any authority on functions exercised out of and beyond the pale of English jurisdiction. It was only in native territories that my duties arose, and the real authority for the office must, I apprehend, be derived

derived from the Crown exercising the rights and privileges recognised by the Act of the Imperial Parliament, of 6 & 7 Vict. c. 94. There cannot be a doubt but that it was intended that the party filling my office should represent the Crown in the native territories, and if I have only done such acts as I ought to have performed, if the warrant had properly constituted me such representative, I am led to believe, from the language of your Lordship's letter, that you will regard me as entitled to protection.

Having acted in the administration of peculiar and arduous and novel duties, so as to receive the approbation of successive Secretaries of State, I have been obliged to resign such office, have been put to much expense, and threatened with more, not because of any improper conduct, but because of a technical defect in the warrant by which I was appointed.

On Saturday last I was served with a writ by the same solicitors as act for Messrs. Forster & Co. in Hervey's case, claiming damages for my interference in protecting Clouston's estate, and I am threatened also with another action to test my judicial authority in the native territories in reference to a judgment in Marman *v.* Bannerman, although the circumstances were such that the representative of the defendant admitted that the defence was bad. My judgment is disputed not on any substantial ground, but technically on my want of authority under the warrant.

In conclusion, your Lordship will excuse me for remarking, that in Hervey's case the monies alluded to in the judgment were not in my possession; they were the produce of goods consigned by me from the Gold Coast, and mainly to Messrs. Forster & Co., and to whom, as creditors, I thought it fair to give the benefit of the sales, although not upon friendly relations with them. I took no steps to enforce the payment to myself of such monies, and they were actually retained by Messrs. Forster up to the time of the judgment. It is obvious, therefore, that I neither received nor sought even an indirect advantage from these monies. On the other hand, the *bona fides* of my proceedings is shown by the unusual circumstance of the judge awarding to me the payment of a large portion of my costs, although he feels obliged to hold me to be technically a wrong-doer.

If it should be the wish of your Lordship that I should state my views in reference to the office and its duties in the shape of a case for the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, I will do so; but I have thought it right to confine myself as much as possible to the simple circumstances connected with the case of Mr. Hervey.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 34.

HERVEY *v.* FITZPATRICK.

COPY Judgment of Vice-Chancellor *Wood*, on 26 April 1855.

The Vice-Chancellor.—I have had the great advantage of having heard unquestionably an able argument by the counsel for the defendant in this case, both on the former occasion and on the present. The argument on the present occasion has been more full than on the former occasion; and if I had for a moment any apprehension that I was about to intrench on the Royal prerogative, as existing and fortified (if that is a correct word to use in respect of such a matter, and perhaps it is so with regard to a foreign country, and not this country, for the Royal right is affirmed by Act of Parliament as against all the subjects of the realm) under this statute of the 6th & 7th of the Queen, c. 94, I should certainly take no step whatever without taking that course which it is lawful for me to do, and which I should unquestionably think it right and expedient to do, in ascertaining what the extent of the power and jurisdiction of Her Majesty, in this settlement of Cape Coast Town, is, or has been, at any time prior to the present moment. Now, I think that is what the Act of Parliament recommends or suggests should be done in case of any doubt or difficulty; and the object of it no doubt is, that this being a right exercised by the Queen in parts beyond the seas, where she has herself, under or by virtue of her Crown, no authority at all, the country being subject to a foreign sovereign, the statute commences by saying, that, as regards all the authority which she has acquired, or is permitted, by sufferance or otherwise, to exercise in such

Encl. 1, in No. 34.

such countries, her authority shall be treated to be as ample as if she had acquired it by conquest, making her sole and absolute sovereign and mistress over all persons who shall be there resident, so far as the foreign prince is concerned. Then I say, that power being so large, at the same time being so incapable of being ascertained, or it being difficult to ascertain the exact nature and extent of that power, and it being intended by Parliament it should be of a sovereign character, they have thought fit that the certificate of the Secretary of State should be sufficient, if the Court thought fit to ask for it, to certify the exact extent and amount of such qualified jurisdiction—qualified, of course, only by knowing what it is, that by treaty, capitulation, grant, usage, sufferance, or other lawful means, she has acquired.

Now I think that is the only question that one is authorised to submit to the Secretary of State, with the view of having an answer that is to be deemed conclusive evidence. No doubt, as has been suggested, there are other matters connected with the exercise of the Royal prerogative, on which the Court may think it expedient to require information from foreign and other offices, and has availed itself of such information, not being bound conclusively by it when given. But the words being, "whereas she has by other lawful means power and jurisdiction," as those words may have specific force, then the extent of that power and jurisdiction is the very thing, and the only thing, submitted. Now, it does not appear to me that that is the question which arises here; because I can assume, and may safely assume, that the Queen has had power and jurisdiction to erect any court she thought fit, ecclesiastical or otherwise; to create any officers she thought fit, for the administration, or otherwise, of intestate's effects; and the only question that arises, as regards the present defendant, is this, whether or not, assuming that jurisdiction, I find it vested in him; or if not, whether he is liable to account in this suit in respect of the property now in the hands of the defendants, Messrs. Forster & Smith, and which was remitted by him to be placed to the account of the intestate's estate.

Now, on looking to his authority, of course both as regards the subject and as regards the Crown, I must conceive that in claiming to exercise on his part all the authority vested in the Queen (for that has been the argument of Mr. Jessel) that the Crown has intended to part with that authority, and that he holds it under a Commission which authorises him so to do. Therefore one looks at the letters patent under which he holds, which, whether rightly or wrongly granted, for the present moment I must assume cannot be extended beyond the warrant. There might have been a question, whether or not the letters patent might not have been restricted to the warrant; but I cannot hold, that if the Governor had not thought fit to go to the full extent of the warrant, he might not be allowed so to do, the warrant being permissive to make such and such appointments; and as long as this is the only authority under which Mr. Fitzpatrick can claim to act, namely, the letters patent under which he holds his office, I am bound to look at the letters patent to see whether they confer the authority that he now asserts, which is an authority of this description. It is, I must say, not very clearly stated to my mind; but I may put it in this way: he claims to be the person having sole power and authority to administer the estate of intestates abroad; his affidavit has reduced it to that, and has not put it extremely clear. But suppose it to be that by virtue of his judicial office, combined with the character of personal representative, he claims to be the party who has, by virtue of these letters patent which I hold in my hand, the sole and exclusive right of administering the effects in this particular district, of parties dying intestate within that district; the letters patent are these: it recites the Act of Parliament of the 7th of the Queen, and its title, and says, "Whereas," by that Act of Parliament, "it was enacted, that it was and should be lawful for us to hold, exercise, and enjoy any power or jurisdiction which we then had or might at any time thereafter have within any country or place out of our dominions, in the same and as ample a manner as if we had acquired such power or jurisdiction by the cession or conquest of territory: and whereas at the time of the passing of the said Act we had and still have, by usage and sufferance, or by one or other of these, or by other lawful means, power and jurisdiction within divers countries and places out of, but adjacent to, our forts and settlements on the Gold Coast: and whereas the said power and jurisdiction, or certain parts thereof, have hitherto been exercised for and on behalf of us by George Maclean, while acting in the office of President of the Council of Magistrates at our Fort of Cape Coast Castle." One would certainly expect, after that preamble, if the authority is to be found conferring on this gentleman all the power and jurisdiction which the Queen so held, that it would be here given; but the words are these: "Now know you, that we, having great confidence in your loyalty, integrity, and ability, do by these presents constitute and appoint you, the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, to be assessor or assistant to the native sovereigns and chiefs within the countries aforesaid, to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office and place during our pleasure, with all the rights, profits, privileges, and advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining." It is said this was the first time the office was ever created: if so, it does seem an exceedingly singular way of creating the office, that it should be with all the rights, profits, privileges, and advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining. I cannot conceive it can be carried further, if it be a new office, than all the rights, profits, privileges, and advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining, by any fair and reasonable interpretation that can be given to the words "assessor, or assistant to the native sovereigns and chiefs." This is larger and more for Mr. Fitzpatrick's benefit than the way in which he regards it in his answer. In his answer he says, "judicial assessor;" but it is not so qualified here; and it did occur to me, during part of Mr. Jessel's argument, looking to the large words of the warrant, possibly it might have been within the mind of those who prepared the warrant to say,

say, having certain rights of sovereignty allowed by the native princes, "I hereby at once make you assessor and assistant to the native princes, and thereby put you in the stead of me as to everything that those native princes may think right to commit to you; they having the sovereignty, you shall be their assessor or assistant on my part, and shall take out of them all the delegated authority which they can permit you to exercise, or which I can exercise." It did occur to me that that, though strong, might be a possible construction of the instrument or grant from the Crown; but I find that the grant itself is narrower, restricted as it is to a certain degree by the recital, the recital being that Her Majesty has a certain jurisdiction; that that jurisdiction, or part of it, had been hitherto exercised by a certain officer, who was president of the Council of Magistrates, and that then she appoints Mr. James Coleman Fitzpatrick to be assessor, or assistant to the native sovereigns or princes and chiefs.

Now, I assume that Her Majesty has power to authorise anybody to have the sole right of administering estates, and holding against all persons interested in this country or elsewhere any property or personal estate which he may find in the place where he is domiciled: I assume that she has that right. Then the question I wish to try is this: suppose that Her Majesty were minded, under a distinct and clear grant, to grant to somebody else the right and privilege of administering the estates of intestates. If Mr. Jessel's argument be right on these Letters Patent remaining outstanding, it could not be done, because she has parted with her whole right of sovereignty; and if I do not get the whole of Her Majesty's right in these Letters Patent, then I am entirely at a loss, from any evidence in the cause, to find how these terms, "assessor or assistant to the native sovereigns and chiefs within the countries aforesaid, to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office and place during our pleasure, with all the rights, profits, privileges, and advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining," can possibly convey to him this specific right now claimed, being told it is a new office altogether, and if not a new office, I should still require evidence which I should not have sought from the Secretary of State, but which Mr. Fitzpatrick would be bound to give, to show that it was a right incident to his office to have this particular right of administering estates, because otherwise, as I said before, a conflict might hereafter arise with respect to any future grant the Queen might make in respect of any particular office.

Mr. Jessel.—Will your Honor allow me to interrupt you? I was wrong in informing your Honor that it was the first appointment: it is the second appointment.

The Vice-Chancellor.—In the same form?

Mr. Jessel.—Mr. Fitzpatrick had not seen the form of the warrant appointing Mr. M'Lean, but a copy can be obtained at the Colonial Office, and that may define the jurisdiction of the office.

Mr. Rolt.—This interruption is irregular.

Mr. Jessel.—I was merely stating that I was wrong: in point of fact, I do not know whether it would be useful to have it produced.

The Vice-Chancellor.—It is very unfortunate that it should not have been stated. What Mr. Jessel suggests is this, that, supposing there were an anterior warrant defining the office, with all its rights, then this warrant—

Mr. Rolt.—I hope your Honor will not listen to such a suggestion in this stage of the cause: there is no evidence whatever of it; and I trust your Honor will not upon this statement permit any delay, a delay, the object of which I cannot understand. There is nothing else in the cause.

Mr. Daniel.—We were under a misapprehension. The evidence is this: "I know that the office of assessor was created about the year 1844, but the same duties were previously discharged by the Governor. Captain M'Lean was Governor before he was assessor."

The Vice-Chancellor.—I remember that; and I was rather surprised on that account, when I was told this was the first appointment. However, I will continue to state my reasons for this decision. I shall not dispose of any person's rights upon any slip of that kind, if it is found that on the face of the grant there is included this office of administering intestates' estates, and defined it in such a way as to carry with it the right incident to the office. In the absence of that, I am clearly of opinion that the mere appointment of a person as assessor or assistant to the native princes or chiefs does not, *eo nomine*, convey all the jurisdiction vested in the Queen. Whatever its effect may be, it must be determined by its words. It is just possible there may be a distinct transfer to the assistant or assessor of the particular jurisdiction, or there may be a creation of assessor, with all the rights and privileges which the Queen had, or may have, under this Act of Parliament, in the jurisdiction over native princes.

There may be some such general words in it: it can be produced when the time comes; but at present I have it not before me, and it would require a special case to be made about that.

Then that being so, the question is reduced to the second point that was argued by Mr. Jessel, of this gentleman being simply a wrong-doer; for it is really reduced to that, if this gentleman had not the right. All that I have before me is, that certain property is admitted to be assets of this intestate in this country: the administrator here is the person who holds those assets here; and then I think Mr. Jessel somewhat misunderstood (I did not

not choose to interrupt him at the time) the object I had in making those observations which I made on the former occasion in this case. What I stated then was this: Mr. Jessel had urged, in truth, the property in question was a simple case of trover; that the party has sold certain palm oil and other things belonging to this gentleman abroad; that he had got the proceeds; and that if he was liable at all, as against the goods (as was argued to-day), it was as an executor *de son tort*, supposing it were in England (and he says it cannot be otherwise); that they were simply the goods, and that you could not follow the proceeds. It was in meeting that, I made this observation; it seems to me that this "gets rid of the difficulty which has been suggested, that there has been a conversion, and that the proceeds are no longer property of the intestate, and that the rights of the administrator will only attach upon the assets, and not upon the proceeds of them when converted. If a person has remitted property to this country, and desired it to be sold, and the proceeds to be carried to the account of a certain estate, the proceeds are assets, and the next of kin have a right so to treat them." All I meant to say by that was, they are earmarked as the money belonging to this estate, and that it is not competent for Mr. Fitzpatrick to say, "This money does not belong to the estate. I have sold certain goods; you must sue in trover as to them; but as regards this identical sum of money in the hands of this gentleman, that is no longer any part of the intestate's estate." It seems to me impossible that a person having sold an estate, and having moneys which are admitted to have arisen from the sale of any part of the estate, could be in a position to say, "This is not part of the estate; I am simply a wrong-doer; I am answerable in damages, and you have no right to treat these as part of the proceeds." That seems to me to be still an answer to some of the more refined arguments which have been urged about the distinction between an executor *de son tort*. I am not aware of the proposition, that when a person possesses property abroad, supposing he had brought the identical property over here, certain property which he found in France, or otherwise, a wrong-doer brings it over here, and tells the Court he has sold some part of it in France, paid debts, and now he has brought over the rest of it here, and that he claims the right to deal with it, that it would be an answer to treating him as an executor *de son tort*, to say, he possessed the assets in a foreign country, and that he could not attempt to possess them in the character of executor. He brings them here, still has them here, and is still holding them; and until I have some authority cited, I should have great doubt, I confess, that the answer of how they were originally acquired, would be an answer to any suit in which he was sought to be attacked as executor *de son tort*.

Then Mr. Jessel says they are not the identical goods; they are assets. Then I make the same observation as I used before, I do not think it is in the mouth of this gentleman to say this is not in truth personal estate of the testator; that is the character in which he remitted it. I never supposed he said, "I remitted this in trust for the administrator, or in trust for anybody else; he claimed all through to be administrator himself." Then I say, claiming to be administrator himself, as it turns out, he is not so; he cannot turn round and say it is no part of the estate.

That is all I intended to observe. It seems to me to be an answer to the question whether he is or not to have an account. I think there is a distinction between this case and that of Sandilands *v.* Innes, and it is possible that the fact that the gentleman took out representation in England as well as abroad, may be a distinction in that particular case. What I find here is, that there is property of this intestate brought here: it is in this country earmarked. I find, therefore, property here with which the Court has a right to deal; and I apprehend that whether you treat Mr. Fitzpatrick as an agent, which Mr. Jessel says he repudiated, or whether you treat him as a party who has made a declaration of trust of that money, that it is not his money; but that he has said it is not my money; it is the money of *A. B.*; I declare that I hold the money for *A. B.*, treating himself as a person who cannot hold it for his own benefit, but that he holds it simply as a trustee for some other parties; the question is, whether he would be entitled; claiming it for himself, no doubt, as long as he thought he was entitled so to do; but it turning out that he was not entitled to hold it by right, then he, saying, "I claim, as lawful executor, to hold these as trust monies of the estate," he cannot turn round and say, when he has shown he is not executor, "It is not trust monies, but is something I am to be sued for at law by an action of trover."

The case, then, comes to this, that it is the case of an administrator seeking an account, and then I think the case of Sandilands *v.* Innes does apply; that if you are to get an account at all, it must be a complete account, because it would be injustice to this gentleman himself, as well as to the administrator claiming the estate. If a complete account is not directed, Mr. Fitzpatrick may say here, "It is true this is property of the intestate; I have admitted it to be so; but I have paid 300*l.* or 400*l.* abroad, and you could not get at the account without taking the whole, and it is in that shape that I think the whole account must be taken."

Then I do not know what is said about costs. I have said nothing about the seven per cent. If he can make out any case to support his claim for that, he must make it out in chambers. But about the costs, I would just observe, that this gentleman has secured the property under an apprehension of right. I do not think I could give him his costs as between solicitor and client, but I think it right to give him his costs in a case of this description.

Enclosure 2, in No. 34.

In Chancery.

Between *John Hervey*, Plaintiff; *James Coleman Fitzpatrick* and others, Defendants. Encl. 2, in No.

I, *Stephen John Hill*, now residing at No. 11, Fitzwilliam-place, in the City of Dublin, and lately Governor of Cape Coast Castle, and of the adjacent forts and settlements on the Gold Coast, in Africa, belonging to Her Majesty, make oath and say,

1. That I always understood that it was the duty of the above-named defendant, James Coleman Fitzpatrick, as judicial assessor and assistant to the native princes in the territories adjacent to Cape Coast Castle, under the warrant of Her Majesty, to take charge of and administer the unrepresented estates of British subjects dying within the territories of native princes.

2. That I verily believe that by the energy and management of the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, the estate of the said James Hervey was rendered more productive than would have been the case in any other hands.

3. That in the colony of Sierra Leone I understand a commission of from five to ten pounds per cent. is allowed for the performance of such duties as were performed by the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, and that all analogous duties on the Gold Coast, such as the preservation of property by Lloyds' agents or otherwise, are rewarded by a commission generally to the amount of from five to ten pounds per cent.

4. That I verily believe that it is of great public importance that there should be on the Gold Coast, and especially in the native territories, an officer possessing power to protect and administer the properties of persons unrepresented by reason of death or absence, for the purpose of securing impartial justice to the natives and others trading to the Gold Coast, as well as the English merchants.

(signed) *Stephen J. Hill.*

Sworn before me, this 7th day of May 1855, at my office in Kildare-street, in the City of Dublin, by virtue of a Commission to me directed forth of Her Majesty's High Court of Chancery in England for taking affidavits in Ireland.

Benjamin Bloomfield.

— No. 35. —

No. 35.
J. Ball, Esq., to Fitzpatrick, E 23 June 185

Copy of LETTER from *J. Ball*, Esq., M.P., to *James C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 23 June 1855.

I am directed by Lord John Russell to acknowledge your letter* of the 7th of this month, and to state that he cannot recognise in your additional statement any further reason for his interference. That the local Government were aware of, and sanctioned your acting in some cases of intestate estates, his Lordship was before aware; but this cannot shift from you, the principal legal authority of the settlement, a responsibility which you thought fit yourself to assume; and his Lordship must remind you that in the very despatch to the Duke of Newcastle, of the 2d August 1853, to which you refer, you pressed his Grace not to interfere, as asked by Mr. Cruickshank, in the matter of your per-centage on the estate in question, and desired his Grace to leave "Messrs. Forster & Smith, or their agent, to the legal proceedings of which they had given notice, and in which you were prepared to abide." †

* Page 66.

† Page 4.

2. Lord John Russell would, however, see with great regret your being subjected to pecuniary loss, for proceedings, which, though undertaken without sufficient authority, were, nevertheless, undertaken in the supposed discharge of your duty, and in the absence of all legal advice. He is, therefore, ready to recommend to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, that if these proceedings can be settled by yourself on terms approved of by their Lordships, you should be saved harmless from any such loss, on condition of your waiving claim to all per-centage or remuneration in respect of the estates you may have administered, and suffering any sums that may be realised on that account to be transferred to the Treasury. His Lordship will, in short, consent to an arrangement, which should leave you, in a pecuniary point of view, exactly in the same position as if you had not done any act with respect to the estates of Mr. Clouston and Mr. Hervey.

3. With regard to proceedings which may be had against you in respect of other acts done as judicial assessor, besides those respecting unrepresented estates, by reason of the alleged imperfection of your authority; should any such proceedings be commenced, and carried to such a point as to disclose that they are in respect of your conduct as judicial assessor, you are authorised, thereupon, to place yourself at once in communication with the solicitor to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, who will be apprised of the permission now given you.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Ball.*

— No. 36. —

No. 36.
. Fitzpatrick, , to the Right Lord John ell. June 1855. Page 71.

Copy of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, London, 30 June 1855.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter* of the 23d instant. I had previous to its receipt communicated to Mr. Clouston that I should only defend the propriety of my conduct, but should not encumber the case with any question as to my commission; and on that intimation he dropped all personal charges, and gave me a receipt for the amount of the commission, not only as such, but in full discharge of all claims of any kind. The receipt is dated on the 28th instant.

In Hervey's case all charges of improper conduct have also been abandoned, and I expect, at a meeting appointed for next week, to arrange the items of account; but if there should be any difference it will be referred to Vice-Chancellor Wood, in chambers.

As to such other proceedings as may be instituted against me, I beg to thank your Lordship for the permission to refer them to the solicitor to the Treasury, and for the relief and protection which will thus be afforded to me.

Whatever may be the technical objections to which any official acts of mine may be open, I am satisfied that there is not one which will be found at variance with substantial justice, or inconsistent with the public interest.

The Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, on whose recommendation the office was created, was my chief guide as to its duties; and an experience of six years enables me to bear my humble testimony to the nature and importance of the office, in aiding the operations of Her Majesty's Government, and improving the condition of the people of the Gold Coast.

I have, &c.,

(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 37. —

No. 37.
. Fitzpatrick, , to the Right . Lord John ell. June 1855.

Copy of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, London, 30 June 1855

I have under another cover acknowledged the letter with which you were good enough to favour me on the 23d instant. As by that letter I am materially relieved in regard to any future question which may arise, in connexion with my late office of judicial assessor or assistant to the native sovereigns on the Gold Coast, I venture to intrude on your Lordship with a short statement of my claims for renewed employment in the public service.

In the year 1848, I accepted the office of judicial assessor on the Gold Coast, under the belief, encouraged by my late friend, Mr. Sheil, that a faithful and intelligent discharge of its duties would ensure my subsequent promotion. The records of the Colonial Office will show that I may with pardonable pride refer to each successive Colonial Secretary, as approving the discretion with which I acted

acted in the various novel cases which arose, and had to be determined by me, whilst exercising the functions of an ill-defined, or rather undefined office. In 1852, Earl Grey left a memorandum in the Colonial Office to the effect that the manner in which I had discharged my duties had been deserving of his approbation, and that it had been his intention to have promoted me to a better climate, in consequence of the injury my health had sustained.

In 1853, Sir John Pakington approved of my appointment as Chief Justice within the settlement, which was subsequently confirmed by the Duke of Newcastle.

In November 1853, I returned to England on a short leave of absence, and from that time I have been harassed with actual and threatened legal proceedings for acts done by me in exercise, as I believe, of my official duties, and for acts which, if left undone, would, in almost every case, have resulted in very severe loss to the parties who now complain of them.

The necessity of defending my official acts, and this, through my private solicitors, compelled me to resign my office to the Duke of Newcastle, and to remain in England. The case of Hervey is the only one which has been carried through, and it is obvious that in this, in which my personal interests are most largely concerned, such personal interests cannot have swayed me, as I would not have resigned an appointment of 800 *l.* a year to ensure a commission of 500 *l.* As a public official I had no alternative but to resign my office, when my presence in England was required to defend conduct which I believed to be the proper fulfilment of my duty. The issue is at present unfortunate for me. I stand as a public officer approved, but not employed.

Still when I regard my testimonials and services, and that these services, performed in a post of difficulty and responsibility, have come under the personal knowledge of Earl Grey, Sir John Pakington, and the Duke of Newcastle, I trust that your Lordship will not deem me presumptuous in thus pressing upon your notice my claims, and in expressing the hope that, as I am now freed from the restraints of litigation, your Lordship will be pleased to recommend me for some appointment, for which you may regard me as qualified.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 38. —

No. 38.
J. Ball, Esq., M.P. to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq. 14 July 1855.

COPY of LETTER from *J. Ball*, Esq., M.P., to *James C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 14 July 1855.

I AM directed by Lord John Russell to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, submitting your application for re-employment; and I am to inform you that his Lordship cannot promise you employment, but that he will not fail to bear in mind your claims to be re-appointed to the public service.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Ball.*

— No. 39. —

No. 39.
J. Ball, Esq., M.P. to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq. 12 July 1855.

COPY of LETTER from *J. Ball*, Esq., M.P., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 12 July 1855.

I AM directed by Lord John Russell to transmit to you a memorial (in original, with request that it may be returned) from Mr. Rosseter of Kennington, praying that you may be ordered to account for a certain sum of 7,248*l.* in your hands as late judicial assessor, and to pay the same into this office for the use of your successor.

Mr. Rosseter has already been informed that this department has no power to make such an order.

I am, however, to direct your attention to the last letter of Messrs. Clarke & Morice, specified in the memorial (that of 1 May 1855), proposing that in lieu of an indemnity to claimants a sufficient portion of the sum should be set aside to meet all claims, and to state that Lord John Russell will readily furnish such

assistance as may be in his power, by taking charge of the deposit or otherwise, to any arrangement based on this proposal, and consented to by the parties.

Should you be advised that you can properly assent to such arrangement, you are requested to communicate directly with the memorialist or his legal advisers, and inform Lord John Russell that you have done so.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Ball.*

Enclosure in No. 39.

Encl. in No. 39.

To the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell*, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The humble Petition of *James Marmaduke Rosseter*, of Kennington Place in the County of Surrey, Esquire, Executor of the last Will of *William Mackintosh Hutton*, deceased.

Showeth unto your Lordship,

That for some time prior to and until the 30th day of April 1849, the said William Mackintosh Hutton and one Robert Hutton carried on in co-partnership, the trade or business of African merchants in the city of London, and at Accra, Prampram, Adaffi, and Popo near Cape Coast, on the west coast of Africa, and within Her Majesty's colony of Sierra Leone and its dependencies, under the style or firm of W. B. Hutton & Sons.

That on the said 30th day of April 1849, the said Robert Hutton died, and after his death the said trade or business was carried on at the places aforesaid under the style or firm aforesaid, by the said William Mackintosh Hutton until his death on the 18th day of January 1852.

That since the death of the said William Mackintosh Hutton the said trade or business has been, and is now being wound up and realized by your petitioner, at the places aforesaid, under a decree of Her Majesty's High Court of Chancery, dated the 4th day of November 1852.

That at the time of the seizure hereinafter mentioned, your petitioner, as such executor, was possessed of large quantities of oil and other goods then being in certain factories belonging to the estate of William Mackintosh Hutton, and to your petitioner as such executor, at Accra, Prampram, Adaffi, and Popo aforesaid.

That a suit was, on the day of November 1852, instituted at Accra aforesaid in the court of James Coleman Fitzpatrick, Esquire, late Judicial Assessor in and for the said colony, by John Marman, then resident at Accra aforesaid, against James Bannerman, then resident at the same place, complaining that his the said John Marman's property had been taken possession of and removed from his house by the said James Bannerman.

That the said James Bannerman appeared to the said suit, which was heard on the 11th and 13th days of December 1852, at Accra aforesaid, before the said Judicial Assessor, who on the last-mentioned day made an order that all the property of the said firm of W. B. Hutton & Sons, at the said several factories before mentioned, should be attached to answer the claims of the creditors of the said John Marman.

That afterwards, and in execution of the said order, large quantities of oil and other goods then in the said several factories, and the property of your petitioner as such executor, were without his consent seized and taken possession of by the said Judicial Assessor, and by him afterwards sold; and that the proceeds of the said sale are now in his hands, and amount to the sum of 7,240 *l.* 1 *s.* 1 *d.* English currency, or thereabouts.

That shortly before such seizure the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, as such Judicial Assessor and not otherwise, had adjudged the said John Marman to be a bankrupt.

That your petitioner, on the 20th day of December 1853, presented his petition to Her Majesty, setting forth (among other things) the matters aforesaid, and praying for leave to appeal against the said order of the said Judicial Assessor, which petition was by Her Majesty's General Order in Council of the 25th day of November 1853, referred to the Lords of the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, who, in pursuance of such reference, took the same into consideration, and having heard counsel on behalf of your petitioner reported to Her Majesty as their opinion, that leave ought to be granted to your petitioner to enter and prosecute his appeal upon certain terms in such report mentioned, which report Her Majesty, on the 18th day of February 1854, at the Court at Buckingham Palace, was pleased to approve and to order should be carried into effect.

That before presenting the said petition to Her Majesty your petitioner, through his solicitors Messrs. Tilson, Clarke & Morice of Coleman-street, London, addressed the following letters to the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, then in England on leave of absence:

"Sir, "Coleman-street, 23 November 1853.

"Upon behalf of Mr. James Marmaduke Rosseter the executor of the late Mr. William Mackintosh Hutton, we now take the liberty of addressing you, being informed that you are now on a visit to this country. As the Judicial Assessor of the colony of Cape Coast Castle you will be familiar with the proceedings which have taken place in your court at the instance of Captain Marman and his creditors; and by virtue of such proceedings all the available property of the late Mr. Hutton, and to which our client Mr. Rosseter was entitled, has been seized and disposed of.

"Our

"Our client, feeling himself aggrieved by what has been done was desirous of appealing to the Privy Council in London, and for that purpose he made application for a copy of the proceedings in your court. As yet, however, a partial copy only has been supplied, and we trust you will be able now to let us be furnished with the remainder.

"The next request we have to make is that we or our client may be favoured with an account of the proceeds of the various seizures, all which we are given to understand remains in your hands, until the rights of the parties are ascertained.

"We further beg to intimate to you (as doubtless has come out during the investigation) that our client, the executor, is a creditor of Captain Marman to a very large amount, and that consequently whether he abandon his proposed appeal or not, he will *pro rata* be entitled to participate with other creditors in the assets in your hands.

"Should it be consistent with your wishes, we should be happy to wait on you whenever you may appoint, to receive an explanation on the above points.

"Requesting the favour of your early attention.

"We have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servants,

"*Tilson, Clarke & Morice.*"

"J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., 5, Little Ryder-street,
St. James'-square."

"We trust you will not make any payment to Captain Marman's creditors until we have determined as to the propriety of an appeal."

"*Hutton.*"

"Sir, "Coleman-street, 29 November 1853.

"Permit us to solicit your attention to our application of the 23d, and with reference thereto to say that we propose to wait on you thereon at one o'clock on Thursday next, unless we previously hear from you to the contrary.

"Yours obediently,

"J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., "*Tilson, Clarke & Morice.*"
5, Little Ryder-street, St. James's."

That in reply to the foregoing letters, your petitioner, through his said solicitors, received the following letter from the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick.

"5, Little Ryder-street, St. James's,

"Gentlemen, 30 November 1853.

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 23d and 29th instant, and to apologise for having by my delay caused you the trouble of writing a second time to me. As professional men you must be aware, that whilst on leave of absence I cannot act in my official capacity, and as Mr. James F. Hutton obtained when on the Gold Coast all the information then in the power of Judicial Assessor's Court to impart, it is useless for me to have an interview with you.

"There was prepared for Mr. Hutton at the same time an account of the sales which had taken place; but I believe he did not subsequently call for it. You can now obtain from the Court at Cape Coast Castle a complete account.

"Permit me to suggest the propriety of your client's expediting his proceedings, either towards an appeal to the Privy Council, or otherwise, as he may be advised, as there must necessarily be some limit to the forbearance of the Court of the Judicial Assessor in not allocating this money, and wrong is being done to some person by the delay.

"Of course, I have no wishes on the subject, except that no injustice should be done through any error of judgment upon my part, or through any of those irregularities incidental to proceedings on the Gold Coast, which I could have prevented.

"I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"*James C. Fitzpatrick.*"

"Messrs. Tilson & Co."

That after the presentation of the said petition, your petitioner being advised that the said order was made by the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, without jurisdiction, on the 21st day of December 1853, commenced an action against the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, in Her Majesty's Court of Exchequer, to which the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick pleaded a justification, that the said William Mackintosh Hutton, before and at the time of his death, traded and had factories and establishments at places on the Gold Coast, in Africa, out of the dominions of Her Majesty, and within the dominions of an independent native sovereign there, and that the said goods were at the time of the decease of the said William Mackintosh Hutton, and from thence until and at the time of the said seizure, within the dominions and jurisdiction of the said native sovereign. And that after the decease of the said William Mackintosh Hutton, a suit was duly, and according to the law of the said place, instituted before and within the dominions and jurisdiction of the said native sovereign, by and between the said Captain Marman, as the plaintiff, and your petitioner, as such executor as aforesaid, as the defendant to which suit your petitioner being duly summoned, duly appeared, and that such proceedings were had thereon that judgment was duly, and according to the law of the said place, given in favour of the said Captain Marman, whereby it was adjudged that he

should recover against your petitioner, as such executor as aforesaid, the sum of 7,040*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* to be levied on the goods of the said William Mackintosh Hutton, deceased, in the hands of your petitioner, as such executor as aforesaid, to be administered. And that by and with the authority, and as the officer and servant of the said native sovereign, and according to the law of the said place, he, the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, afterwards seized, took, and disposed of the goods, in pursuance and execution of the said judgment, and not otherwise.

That, on the receipt of such plea, your petitioner caused inquiries to be made as to the nature and functions of the office or offices then held by the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick in the said colony, or on the said Gold Coast, and ascertained that by letters patent under the Public Seal of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast, dated the 16th day of May 1848 (granted in pursuance of a warrant to that effect, under Her Majesty's Sign Manual and Signet, dated at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the 17th day of December 1847, reciting that, by an Act of Parliament passed in the seventh year of Her Majesty's reign, entitled "An Act to remove Doubts as to the Exercise of Power and Jurisdiction by Her Majesty within divers Countries and Places out of Her Majesty's Dominions, and to render the same more effectual," it was enacted, that it should be lawful for Her Majesty to hold, exercise, and enjoy any power or jurisdiction which Her Majesty then had, or might at any time thereafter have, within any country or place out of Her Majesty's dominions, in the same and as ample a manner as if Her Majesty had acquired such power or jurisdiction by the cession or conquest of territory; and reciting that, at the time of the passing of the Act, Her Majesty had, and then still had, by usage and sufferance, or by one or other of those, or by other lawful means, power and jurisdiction within divers countries and places out of but adjacent to Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements; and reciting that the said power and jurisdiction, or certain parts thereof, had then hitherto been exercised for and on behalf of Her Majesty by George Maclean, while acting in the office of the Council of Magistrates, at Her Majesty's Fort of Cape Coast Castle, Her Majesty constituted and appointed the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick to be Assessor or Assistant to the native sovereigns and chiefs within the countries aforesaid, to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office and place during Her Majesty's pleasure, with all the rights, profits, privileges, and advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining.

That your petitioner was also informed, and believes, that the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, besides holding the said office of Assessor or Assistant under the said Letters Patent, then held also the office of Chief Justice in criminal matters in the said colony, by appointment or under the authority of Her Majesty.

That the said John Marman, the said James Bannerman, and your petitioner are subjects of Her Majesty.

That the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, in or about the month of November 1853, came to and has ever since been and now is in this country, and is residing, as your petitioner believes, at No. 16, Regent-street.

That the said sum of 7,240*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* was received by the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick in his character of such Judicial Assessor and not otherwise, and is now retained by him in this country.

That the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick now claims to hold and retain the said proceeds for the benefit of, and for distribution amongst, the general body of creditors of the said John Marman.

That your petitioner, as such executor, is a creditor of the said John Marman to the amount of 40,506*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

That a copy of the account of your petitioner's debt, without prejudice to any question, was rendered to the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick in London by or on behalf of your petitioner, in the month of April 1854.

That the debts of the said John Marman, as your petitioner is informed and believes, exclusive of the said debt of your petitioner, amount to 6,000*l.*, or thereabouts.

That, after the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick so pleaded to the said action, your petitioner, being advised that, under the statute before-mentioned, the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick was entitled to a notice of action before he could be sued in respect of such seizure, discontinued the said action, and having served the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick with a notice of action, commenced a fresh action against the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, on the 22d day of April 1854.

That, after the presentation of the said petition and the commencement of the last-mentioned action, your petitioner was advised by his counsel that no appeal would lie to the Privy Council from the Court of the Judicial Assessor, and that there was no sufficient ground to impeach the jurisdiction of the said order of the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, in the matter of the said suit by the said John Marman against the said James Bannerman, and was then advised to discontinue and abandon the said petition and action, and to come in as one of the creditors of the said John Marman, and your petitioner has accordingly abandoned the said petition and action, and there are now no legal proceedings by your petitioner, pending against the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick.

That, in the month of April last, your petitioner prepared and sent out to the coast of Africa, affidavits of his said debt, together with the said account, for the purpose of having the said debt proved and admitted against the estate of the said John Marman.

That your petitioner is now informed and believes that the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick has ceased to hold his said offices under Her Majesty, and that a successor has been appointed to fill the same.

That

That your petitioner, through Messrs. Clarke & Morice, of Coleman-street, London, has made several applications to the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, and to his solicitors Messrs. Smith & Shepherd, of Golden-square, London, that the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick should secure to your petitioner and other the creditors of the said John Marman, the said sum of 7,240*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* now in his hands for distribution among such creditors, by depositing the same in the Colonial Office for the use of his successor, that the same by him may be distributed as aforesaid, which the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick has refused to do.

That on the 13th day of January last your petitioner, through the said Messrs. Clarke & Morice, addressed to the said Messrs. Smith & Shepherd the following letter:

"*Rosseter* v. *Fitzpatrick.*

"Dear Sirs, "Coleman-street, 13 January 1855.

"Being now authorised to abandon the proceedings against your client, and also the application to the Privy Council, we shall be glad to know what course Mr. Fitzpatrick will pursue in regard to the money in his hands.

"We enclose rule to discontinue, and are,

"Dear Sir, yours truly,

"Messrs. Wright, Smith, & Shepherd, "*Clarke & Morice.*"
Golden-square."

That in reply to the foregoing letter the said Messrs. Clarke & Morice received from the said Messrs. Smith & Shepherd the following letter:

"*Fitzpatrick* ats. *Rosseter.*

"Dear Sirs, "15, Golden-square, 18 January 1855.

"We accept your letter as the withdrawal of any objection to the distribution of the fund herein, and have directed the ordinary proceedings to oblige Mr. Hutton to prosecute or discontinue his claim. Assuming that he accepts the latter alternative, our client will complete his accounts and forward them through the Colonial Office to his successor, so as to enable the matter to be disposed of on the Gold Coast.

"Yours, truly,

"Messrs. Clarke & Morice." "*Smith & Shepherd.*"

That the said Messrs. Clarke & Morice again addressed the said Messrs. Smith & Shepherd in the following letter:

"*Rosseter* v. *Fitzpatrick.*

"Dear Sirs, "Coleman-street, 19 January 1855.

"We presume the Mr. Hutton mentioned in your letter is the client of Messrs. Hughes & Co.

"You say nothing as to the payment over of the money in Mr. Fitzpatrick's hands—a question to which we attach considerable importance. An explanation as to this will oblige,

"Dear Sirs, yours, truly,

"Messrs. Smith & Shepherd, "*Clarke & Morice.*"
15, Golden-square."

That the said Mr. Hutton, in the preceding letter mentioned, is the nephew of the said William Mackintosh Hutton, but has been no way concerned in the proceedings taken by your petitioner in consequence of the said order, as hereinbefore recited.

That the said Messrs. Clarke & Morice not having received a reply to the preceding letter, again addressed the said Messrs. Smith & Shepherd as follows:

"Dear Sirs, "Coleman-street, 21 February 1855.

"We shall be glad to hear what has been done by your client as to the payment over of the funds in his hands for administration by his successor. By the next mail we send out affidavits to the Coast in support of our client's debt.

"Yours, truly,

"Messrs. Smith & Shepherd, "*Clarke & Morice.*"
Golden-square."

That the said Messrs. Clarke & Morice received from the said Messrs. Smith & Shepherd the following reply:

"*Fitzpatrick* ats. *Rosseter.*

"Dear Sirs, "15, Golden-square, 22 February 1855.

"The solicitors of Mr. Hutton press his action, but the proceedings are at present suspended by the requisition of security for costs. Can you get them to give up the action.

"Yours, truly,

"Messrs. Clarke & Morice." "*Smith & Shepherd.*"

That the said Messrs. Clarke & Morice again addressed the said Messrs. 'Smith Shepherd in the following letters:

"Dear Sirs, "Coleman-street, 23 February 1855.
"We suggest that you should compel your opponent to give the security or abandon the action.
"We will use whatever influence we possess with the same object.
"Yours, truly,
"Messrs. Smith & Shepherd." "*Clarke & Morice.*"

"Dear Sirs, "Coleman-street, 29 March 1855.
"Is anything done as to paying over the money in the hands of Mr. Fitzpatrick.
"We should also like to know whether you have non-prossed Thomas Hutton's action, or taken any steps in regard thereto.
"Yours, truly,
"Messrs. Smith & Shepherd." "*Clarke & Morice.*"

That the said Messrs. Clarke & Morice received the following letter from the said Messrs. Smith & Shepherd in reply:

"Dear Sirs,
"Some letter must have miscarried. We write to say, that we had got an order for security for costs, and for stay of proceedings in the mean time in Hutton's action. The order has not been complied with, and we cannot do more.
"We shall be very glad to concur in any application to the Colonial Office, which may relieve our client from the responsibility which is so unduly cast upon him.
"Yours, truly,
"15, Golden-square, 24 April 1855." "*Smith & Shepherd.*"

"The simplest plan would be, to arrange some mode by which the questions raised by your client should be brought for decision before the Privy Council.

"Messrs. Clarke & Morice."

That Messrs. Clarke & Morice again addressed the said Messrs. Smith & Shepherd in the following letter:

"Dear Sirs, "Coleman-street, 26 April 1855.
"In a former letter, we suggested that Messrs Hughes & Co. should be compelled to give security, or to abandon the action, and we regret you have not endeavoured to obtain such an order.
"At all events, we think your client ought not to retain in his hands the 6,000 *l.* or 7,000 *l.* levied on our client's property, as we have always understood that Mr. Thomas Hutton's claim, if sustainable, did not extend beyond 1,500 *l.* We have no objection upon the money being paid to the Colonial Office, to let an adequate sum be retained until Thomas Hutton's action is disposed of.
"We are quite willing that the question as to our client's proof (that being now the only one left) should be submitted to the Privy Council, if they will assume jurisdiction, but we fear they will not.
"Yours, truly,
"Messrs. Smith & Shepherd." "*Clarke & Morice.*"

That since the discontinuance and abandonment of the said action and petition, there is no longer any question between your petitioner and the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, or between your petitioner and the estate of the said John Marman, but whether your petitioner is entitled to claim as a creditor against such estate, and to what amount, which question your petitioner is advised, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council would not entertain in the first instance, and before any adjudication had been made thereupon by the successor of the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick.

That Messrs. Clarke & Morice received from the said Messrs. Smith & Shepherd, the following letter:

"Dear Sirs, "15, Golden-square, 30 April 1855.
"We were only able to get an order for security for costs with stay of proceedings.
"Will your clients indemnify against Hutton and all other claims, if the money be paid over.
"Yours, truly,
"Messrs. Clarke & Morice." "*Smith & Shepherd.*"

That

That the said Messrs. Clarke & Morice again addressed the said Messrs. Smith & Shepherd in the following letter:

"Dear Sirs, "Coleman-street, 1 May 1855.

"We think the judge will, on a proper application, give you an order, that unless security be given by a day to be fixed, the defendant shall sign judgment of *non pros.*

"Our client being an executor, cannot be advised to give an indemnity, but we will consent to a sufficient sum being reserved by the Colonial Office to meet all contingencies.

"Yours, truly,

"Messrs. Smith & Shepherd, "*Clarke & Morice.*"
Golden-square."

That your petitioner is apprehensive, unless immediate means are taken to secure the said sum of money now in the hands of the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick, as such late Judicial Assessor for the benefit of your petitioner, and other the creditors of the said John Marman, the same will be lost.

Your petitioner therefore humbly prays your Lordship that the said James Coleman Fitzpatrick may be ordered to account for the said sum of 7,240*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, or other the sum now in his hands, as such late Judicial Assessor as aforesaid, and to pay the same into the Colonial Office for the use of his successor in order that the same may be secured for the benefit of your petitioner and other the creditors of the said John Marman, or that your Lordship will make such other order, or give such other relief to your petitioner in the premises as to your Lordship shall seem meet.

James M. Rosseter.

Witness,
Wm. Clarke, Solicitor,
29, Coleman-street, London.

— No. 40. —

No. 40.
J. C. Fitzpatric
Esq., to the Rig
Hon. Lord John
Russell.
14 July 1855.

COPY of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, London, 14 July 1855.

1. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter* of the 12th instant, enclosing the memorial of Mr. Rosseter, which only reached my hands yesterday.

2. I have to express my regret that a memorial conveying, as it does, an unjustifiable imputation on my character, should have remained so long unknown to me, and therefore unanswered; and I am thus obliged to trouble your Lordship with the following remarks:

3. The sum available under the levy in Marman *v.* Bannerman is not 7,250*l.*, but about 6,700*l.*, computed according to the rates recognised in the Government departments on the Gold Coast; and on my arrival in this country I informed the Duke of Newcastle of the circumstances of the levy, and of the proceedings then threatened by Mr. Rosseter. At the same time I requested his Grace's instructions as to the disposal of the money, and that the Government should undertake my defence. But I was officially informed that I must be regarded and act in the same way as if I had been a sheriff in England.

4. Mr. Rosseter omits to mention that, in April 1854, I offered, in order to save expense and delay, to divide the money between him and the other creditors, if the amount of their respective debts could be settled, and that it was with this view that the amount alluded to in the memorial was entrusted to me; that I transmitted to Captain Marman, on the Gold Coast, such account, and that in August 1854 I received, in reply from Captain Marman, an account bringing Mr. Rosseter, as executor of the late W. B. Hutton, in debt to him on balance of accounts, in a sum of 30,000*l.* and upwards.

5. A copy of Captain Marman's account was forwarded by me to the solicitors of Mr. Rosseter, with a suggestion that the accounts should be investigated by my successor; but I have not heard further on the subject. I may remark that memorialist had declined for nearly a year, during my stay on the Gold Coast, after the levy, to bring forward his account, and submit it for investigation, in the

* Page 73.

the same manner as was done by every other creditor; and Captain Marman always alleged that there was no sum due, and felt aggrieved by the delay.

6. The correspondence since January last, set out in the memorial, vindicates, as I submit, my conduct.

7. Up to the 26th April there was only one remaining obstacle, namely, the proceedings of Mr. Thomas Hutton, who raised the question of my authority. If this action had likewise been abandoned I should have remitted the money to my successor.

8. On the 26th April Vice-Chancellor Wood decided practically that my warrant was no answer to any proceedings, and that my whole jurisdiction was assumed. It would be difficult for Mr. Rosseter probably, especially after this memorial, to question my jurisdiction, but the decision of Vice-Chancellor Wood adds to the danger of Thomas Hutton's action, and it is impossible for me to hope that the Court of Chancery would, after the acquiescence of the Government in the decision of the Vice-Chancellor, sustain my jurisdiction in declaring Captain Marman a bankrupt.

9. Under these circumstances it was not possible for me to act otherwise than I did, by my solicitor's letter of the 30th April last, namely, ask for an absolute indemnity on payment of the money; and your Lordship will perceive that nothing less will avail to protect me.

10. For my own part I shall be too happy to be freed from the harass and risk which these and similar claims occasion to me, and will readily pay over, as the Colonial Office may direct, all monies in my hands, or in the Court under my control, upon being assured that the Government will indemnify me against all liabilities in respect of my late office.

11. I am emboldened to make this request the more from the testimony which this memorial, not framed in a kindly spirit, bears to the manner in which I have discharged the duties of my office; as the memorialist has not brought forward any allegation or insinuation reflecting in the slightest degree on the justice of my decision or the propriety of the levy, however it may suit parties at one time to admit and at another to deny the jurisdiction of the Court over which I presided.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

No. 41.
. Ball, Esq., M.P.,
J. C. Fitzpatrick,
sq.
26 July 1856.

24 July 1855.

— No. 41. —

COPY of LETTER from *J. Ball*, Esq., M.P., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 26 July 1855.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir William Molesworth to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to this department by Messrs. Clarke & Morice, and I am desired to state that Sir William Molesworth will be glad to receive any observations which you may wish to offer on the statement therein contained.

I am, &c.
(signed) *John Ball.*

Encl. in No. 41.

Enclosure in No. 41.

Sir, Coleman-street, 24 July 1855.

SINCE we had the honour, on the 6th instant, of an interview with you on the subject of the money in the hands of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the late judicial assessor at Cape Coast, and at which interview you kindly promised to make a communication to that gentleman, we have been expecting to hear from him or his solicitor, but nothing has transpired so far as we are concerned.

We deem it to be our duty now to bring to your notice another circumstance connected with this gentleman, with which we are only acquainted since the arrival of the last African

In addition to the sum realised by Mr. Fitzpatrick from the levy on Mr. Hutton's property, he also received in his official capacity a further sum of 1,000 *l.* or thereabouts (as he

he himself told us) from other property of Captain John Marman, whom he adjudicated bankrupt, and of whose property he took possession. Expecting that this money was at all events left in the custody of his successor in office, there being no adverse claim whatever thereto, we have lately sent out to the coast an affidavit to prove our client's debt against Marman's estate, in order that he might receive a dividend thereout, in common with Marman's other creditors.

To our surprise, however, we have lately received a letter from our agent on the coast, enclosing copy of one he has received from Mr. J. M. Hanson, the clerk to the judicial assessor at Cape Coast, and which is as follows: "Cape Coast, 30 May 1855. I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, and beg to acquaint you in reply that there is no money in the judicial assessor's office belonging to the estate of Mr. J. Marman. Mr. Fitzpatrick did not pay any money for this estate to Captain M'Court when he was leaving for England, nor has there been any money paid into the said court for this estate since that gentleman's departure. I am aware, from my own knowledge, that Mr. Fitzpatrick collected the money which was due for property which he sold on account of this estate prior to his departure, and I believe also that he took the same money away with him."

We take the liberty respectfully of submitting, that whatever excuse Mr. Fitzpatrick may have for retaining the proceeds of a levy amounting to about 7,000*l.*, as to which he might be open to litigation, yet there can be none in his bringing away and retaining in his possession the produce of other assets belonging to the bankrupt's estate, and we therefore trust you will be enabled to make such an intimation to Mr. Fitzpatrick as will cause him to act under the advice of your department in placing the money in safe custody until he is freed from responsibility in respect thereof.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Clarke & Morice.*

John Ball, Esq., M. P.
Under Secretary to the Colonies,
Downing-street.

— No. 42. —

No. 42.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to the Right Hon. Sir W. Molesworth, Bart. 28 July 1855.

COPY of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Right Honourable Sir *William Molesworth*, Bart., M. P.,

Sir, London, 28 July 1855.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, enclosing one from Messrs. Clarke & Morice, of the 24th instant.

That letter, together with the former memorial of Mr. Rosseter, supply, in themselves, an ample explanation of my conduct.

As judicial assessor, I had made a decree in a regularly constituted action, and had carried out that decree, by levying on the goods of Mr. Rosseter a considerable sum, for the benefit of the creditors of Captain Marman, who had been declared a bankrupt.

Notice was then given to me, on the part of Mr. Rosseter, not to distribute that money, and that proceedings would be taken to set aside my decree, on the ground that "the order was made without jurisdiction."

In case it should be held that I had not, under my warrant, jurisdiction to act as a judge, in administering unquestioned justice between parties in the native territories, there was little doubt that I could not have jurisdiction to introduce the principle of the English bankrupt law within the same district. The question raised by Mr. Rosseter affected both or neither of my acts.

If he could have recovered the produce of the levy on his goods, on the ground of illegality, I must have been bound to return to Captain Marman the property which I had taken possession of, for the benefit of his creditors.

Mr. Rosseter is thus the sole cause of the delay, for it was his notice which prevented the fund which I had actually commenced to distribute, from being entirely distributed, during the 10 months which elapsed between the levy and my return to England on leave of absence. And although the question of jurisdiction has been since abandoned by Mr. Rosseter, it has been again raised, during the progress of his proceedings, by Mr. Hutton.

I cannot but again observe, that this Mr. Rosseter, who calls himself a very large creditor of Captain Marman, took no steps to prove his debt prior to my leaving the Gold Coast in November 1853; and has since, in April last, only sent out an affidavit of debt, but does not appear to have taken any steps to get the debt itself admitted or established. This is the more singular, as, to my knowledge, the existence of any such debt was disputed and denied by Captain Marman's other creditors, as well as by himself; and if it should turn out that no debt exists, Mr. Rosseter will have been interfering most improperly and injuriously in a matter with which he is not concerned.

As to myself, you will observe that the knowledge of the fund now alluded to by Messrs. Clarke & Morice, and of its amount, comes from me. I have never made or attempted the slightest concealment. I have done everything in my power to obviate litigation and prevent delay. I only ask, on parting with the money, for an effectual discharge. Most gladly would I be freed from its care, if, at the same time, I were protected from liability for having touched it; and I only regret that the Government, by assenting to the decision of Vice-Chancellor Wood, should have allowed that liability to appear so serious.

So long as I am in England, and am open to expensive litigation, I feel that I must ask for an indemnity. If, in the public service, I should be called upon to quit England, I trust that the Colonial Office may be willing to take charge of the money; and, freed from the fear of cost and expense, I should then be indifferent as to any formal guarantee.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 43. —

No. 43.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.
9 May 1856.

COPY of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.

Sir, London, 9 May 1856.

I AM enabled now to report the conclusion of the litigation incident to my interference, as judicial assessor on the Gold Coast, with the estate of the late James Hervey.

It is not necessary that I should trouble you with the details of this case, as they are already on the records of the Colonial Office, while presided over by the Duke of Newcastle and Lord John Russell; but as the Vice-Chancellor, Sir W. P. Wood, though compelled, by reason of the defects in the warrant, technically to decide against the legality of my interference, has sanctioned my account, and declared its correctness, I have felt that it would be more fitting to anticipate the formal conclusion of the proceedings, and have at once remitted the balance in my hands to be paid over to the claimants.

So far, therefore, as I am concerned, the case is settled. It only rests with my solicitors to carry out the formalities, and I hope, in a very few days, to report the conclusion of the only other unsettled matter connected with my recent office.

The question raised in this litigation was simply, what were the duties attached to the office of judicial assessor under the Queen's warrant; and the judgment of Vice-Chancellor Wood was, that inasmuch as these duties were not defined by the warrant, he could not sanction the performance by me of any duties, and was bound to hold me responsible, personally, for all acts done by me as such. Still he regarded my conduct as so useful and meritorious, that, in the face of his decision that I was a wrong-doer, he gave me my costs as between party and party, a scale, however, which necessarily entails a loss upon me.

The result of these proceedings, therefore is, that for fulfilling, as judicial assessor, and beneficially for the claimants, duties which I was originally ordered by one Governor to undertake, and the exercise of which was sanctioned by every successive Governor, I have been compelled to resign an office of emolument and respectability, to remain in London, unoccupied, for nearly two years, and to incur costs and expenses to a considerable amount.

I beg, therefore, to submit this case to your consideration, feeling satisfied that you will regard it as no ordinary claim.

As a public servant, who has had the good fortune to receive the approbation of successive Secretaries of State, I trust that I may now look confidently for renewed employment; and I have to request that it may be referred to the solicitor of the Treasury, or some other proper party, to report what remuneration or allowance should be made to me, in regard to the losses which have so unexpectedly and undeservedly been thrown upon me.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 44. —

No. 44.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.
17 May 1856.

COPY of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere.*

Sir, London, 17 May 1856.

I BEG to report to you a proposal which has been made to me, by the parties interested, for settling the disputes incident to the disposal of the money realised by me, as judicial assessor, upon a levy on the goods of W. B. Hutton & Son, at the suit of Captain Marman. Messrs. W. B. Hutton & Son gave me notice, before I left the Gold Coast, not to appropriate the money among the creditors of Captain Marman, who had been declared a bankrupt, as they intended to dispute the legality of the levy; and in the meantime they declined to prove any debt against Marman. On my arrival in England in November 1853, Messrs. Hutton threatened, and eventually commenced, various legal proceedings, but subsequently abandoned them all, and they then required me to remit the funds in hands to the Gold Coast for division. This requisition they endeavoured to enforce through the Colonial Office, and it was favourably received by Lord John Russell, until I explained that the money could not be dealt with pending the existence of an action against me by one Thomas Hutton, who claimed a large portion of the goods which had been seized by me, as belonging to him. I had reason to doubt the *bonâ fides* of this claim, which was also ridiculed by Messrs. W. B. Hutton's representatives; but until this action was disposed of, it was clearly not possible for me to part with the money. A long delay has arisen from this cause, but now Messrs. W. B. Hutton & Sons withdraw their objection, and they, with several others of the largest claimants upon Marman's estate, have now expressed their wish that the claims should be settled, and have sent me a written request that I should pay to Mr. Thomas Hutton 1,600 *l.* Although not recognising the justice of the claim, I should not be warranted in opposing the wishes of those really interested in the money in dispute, and unless I receive from you the expression of a contrary opinion, I shall comply, after next week, with the request so made to me.

If the claims of Thomas Hutton be so disposed of, nothing will remain to be done but for me to transmit to the present judicial assessor the balance of the funds for distribution among the parties who shall, upon the Gold Coast, prove themselves to be creditors of Marman, and I have to request an authority to the colonial agent to receive and transmit to the Gold Coast my account, and the balance due thereon, after the discharge of the claim of Thomas Hutton in the manner before mentioned.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 45. —

No. 45.
J. Ball, Esq., M. P. to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq.
4 June 1856.

COPY of LETTER from *J. Ball*, Esq., M. P., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 4 June 1856.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo, reporting to him a proposal which has been made to you by the parties interested, for settling the disputes incident to the disposal of the money realised by you as late judicial assessor at the Gold Coast, upon a levy on the goods of W. B. Hutton & Son, at the suit of Captain Marman, and I am to acquaint you that Mr. Labouchere must leave it to your decision to take such steps in this matter as you may think proper.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Ball.*

— No. 46. —

No. 46.
J. Ball, Esq., M.P., to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq.
5 June 1856.

COPY of LETTER from *J. Ball*, Esq., M. P., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 5 June 1856.

IN answer to your letter* of the 9th ultimo, requesting that it may be referred to the solicitor to the Treasury, or to some other person, what remuneration or allowance should be made to you in regard to certain losses incurred in the course of your administration of property as judicial assessor on the Gold Coast, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to refer you to the letter† addressed to you by direction of Lord John Russell, on the 23d June last, and to state, that Mr. Labouchere is ready to take steps for the arrangement of the affair in question on the terms offered to you in that letter, if you are content with them; and that it will be very convenient if you are able to include in one reference all the transactions arising out of the execution of your duties in that office.

I am to add, that a note has been made of your wish for employment, which will be considered whenever an opportunity offers.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Ball.*

* Page 82.

† Page 71.

— No. 47. —

No. 47.
J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to J. Ball, Esq., M. P.
20 June 1856.

COPY of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to *J. Ball*, Esq., M.P.

Sir, London, 20 June 1856.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 4th and 5th instant.

I have delayed to reply to the latter of these letters until I could report the settlement of the claim made on the part of Mr. T. Hutton, and which I have discharged this day in conformity with the wishes of the creditors of Captain Marman. It now only remains for me in reference to the transaction, to request (in answer to my letter* of the 17th ultimo) the direction of the Colonial Office as to the mode in which I may transmit to my successor on the Gold Coast the balance of the levy which yet remains for distribution among the creditors of Captain Marman.

Having thus concluded the harassing questions which have been open for upwards of two years, it is fit that I should bring before the Colonial Office my personal claims in reference to my recent appointment, and I am glad to find that Mr. Labouchere desires to receive such a statement.

I must first observe that the "terms offered to me by the letter of Lord John Russell, of 23d June 1855," are now quite inapplicable. These terms were, that "I should be saved harmless from pecuniary loss arising from proceedings on the Gold Coast, on condition of my waiving claim to all per centage or remuneration in respect of the estates I might have administered, and suffering any sums that might be realised on that account to be transferred to the Treasury." This bargain was at that time impossible, even if it had been one into which I could have entered with due regard to my own character.

Prior to the receipt of the letter from Lord J. Russell, I had in consequence of Vice-Chancellor Wood's judgment, informed the representatives of Clouston that I was prepared to refund the commission which I had deducted. My letter† of the 30th June last to the Colonial Office communicated this fact, and Hervey's case has been, as you are aware, adjudicated on.

* Page 83.

† Page 72.

THE following is the Statement of my Claim:

For six years I acted as judicial assessor upon the Gold Coast, in the performance of duties which involved the exercise of a very large discretion. During the whole course of my service I acted in harmony with each successive Governor, and received at different times the marked approval of successive Secretaries of State. Among the duties pointed out by the Governor was

was the care and collection of the estates of parties dying on the Gold Coast without legal representatives. On my return to England in November 1853, my conduct was impugned specially as to the administration of these unrepre sented estates, and allegations of improper interference and personal misconduct being made against me, I was charged as personally responsible for large sums. These charges were scarcely more injurious to myself personally, than to the Government who employed me, and by the direction of whose officers I acted. I have most fully invited inquiry and defended my acts. The Judge bore testimony to the purity of my motives, and the benefits resulting from my interference; but was compelled to decide against me on the sole ground that my warrant was fatally defective, and did not in fact convey any authority whatever. His judgment was, that my warrant shielded me from no responsibility, and against this judicial censure the Colonial Office declined to appeal. The Vice-Chancellor marked his sense of my conduct by allowing to me a larger portion of my expenses than was at all consistent with his judgment; but independent of personal anxiety, I have been subject to legal costs, and have been kept at great expense in attendance in London for more than two and a half years, and this, not by reason of any misconduct on my part, but on account of the carelessness of those who prepared the warrant for my office. I therefore urge respectfully. but seriously, my claim to be indemnified against expenses and losses actually incurred by me, and to be compensated for the loss of time which has been occasioned to me. I do not, however, wish so much by this letter to get the amount of my claim settled, as to have the principle of compensation laid down or admitted. There are minor circumstances connected with this matter which have caused me grave annoyance, and which ought not to have been permitted with reference to a public servant who had faithfully discharged his duty; but I hope that I may be now enabled to bring the affair to a conclusion, and trust that I may be favoured with a definite reply within the present month.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 48. —

COPY of LETTER from *J. Ball,* Esq., M.P., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

No. 48.
J. Ball, Esq., M.P., to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq.
5 July 1856.

Sir, Downing-street, 5 July 1856.

I HAVE received and laid before Mr. Secretary Labouchere your letter of the 20th instant, reporting that you have discharged the claim made on the part of Mr. T. Hutton, in conformity with the wishes of the creditors of Captain Marman, and applying for directions as to the mode in which you may transmit to your successor in the office of judicial assessor on the Gold Coast the balance of the levy, which yet remains for distribution among the creditors of Captain Marman. You likewise request to be indemnified against expenses and losses actually incurred by you in this case.

Mr. Labouchere directs me to state in reply, that he has no objection to your paying into the hands of the agent-general for Crown colonies any sum of money which you may wish to transfer to the judicial assessor at the Gold Coast, and the agent-general will be instructed to receive the same; but I am to add, that it will rest with yourself to inform the judicial assessor in what manner, and for what purposes he is to dispose of this money.

With respect to your application to be indemnified for the expenses which you have incurred, Mr. Labouchere directs me to refer you again to the letter addressed to you by direction of Lord John Russell, on the 23d June 1855, and to state that Mr. Labouchere is still quite unable to see why that letter did not offer the basis of a satisfactory arrangement on the principle of saving you harmless from actual loss; and that the question whether any further compensation is due to you from Her Majesty's Government can only be determined when this preliminary settlement has been effected.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Ball.*

— No. 49. —

No. 49.
C. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to J. Ball, Esq., M.P.
10 July 1856.

COPY of LETTER from *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq., to *J. Ball*, Esq., M.P.

Sir, London, 10 July 1856.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter* of the 5th instant, and I regret to find that it obliges me to trouble you with a further communication.

* Page 85.

In your letter of the 5th of June you expressed a wish that I should include in one communication all matters undisposed of in connexion with my late office, and in complying with that request I had hoped that Mr. Labouchere would have disposed of all the matters at once. Such is not the case, I am permitted to remit to the Gold Coast any funds in my hands belonging to Marman's estate, but such funds are to be there appropriated on my responsibility, and my application for compensation for losses incurred in the public service is met by a reference to a proposal which, when made, was at the same time impossible and inequitable.

In reference to the first point, the permission accorded to me of remitting through the colonial agent any funds in my hands to the judicial assessor, on the understanding that he administers them according to my direction, is tantamount to a declaration that I am now, and am still to be held personally responsible for the appropriation of these monies. I cannot accept nor act upon such a permission. The funds have been obtained by me in the discharge, as I believe, of the duties of my office. Those who felt aggrieved by my judgment at length concede both the legality of my proceedings and the *bonâ fides* of my conduct. They are desirous that the funds should be distributed by my successor in the same mode in which they would have been distributed by me more than three years since, if not stayed by the protest of these very parties. And it is singular that the Colonial Office should at this moment step forward to disown the proceedings of their own officer, and to throw as much doubt as possible upon the propriety of the duties which he has fulfilled. At a risk and at a loss which cannot be compensated to myself, I have, so far as is possible, sustained this jurisdiction which the Colonial Office thus ignores. I trust that the matter will be reconsidered, and that a step will not be taken which is a practical renunciation of an authority which it has been the object for years to establish, and whose existence is of no ordinary importance to the well-being of the Gold Coast. Then, secondly, as to my own claims for compensation, especially as regards the administration of unrepresented estates. With reference to the proposal contained in the letter† of Lord John Russell, of the 23d of June 1855, it was at the time impossible, inasmuch as there were not then any fees to make over to the Treasury in exchange for the protection offered on those terms. Vice-Chancellor Wood had decided against my right to deduct commission in Hervey's case, and, acting on that principle, I had repaid those retained by me in Clouston's case. It was, therefore, useless to discuss that proposal then, and still more futile to attempt to raise that basis now. But as it is pressed I may further observe, that it is difficult to see how there could be any equity in an arrangement which proposed as the terms of protecting a servant of the Government from losses incurred in that service, to make over to the Government itself fees, which if due at all, were due to me, as the proper remuneration for the performance of duties which had been fulfilled.

† Page 71.

I own that I am not sorry that the question is so entirely disentangled from the complication incident to the proposal referred to by you.

The question now stands on very simple grounds. When originally appointed, in 1848, I was assured by the Under Secretary, Mr. Hawes, that if, in that unhealthy climate, I discharged my duties satisfactorily, I should be promoted to an equal or better appointment, of a similar character, in a more favourable climate. How I have conducted myself in the varied and novel duties cast upon me, in an office almost new and experimental, the records of the Colonial Office can show, and to them I confidently appeal. In two most important points my jurisdiction has been impeached, namely, my right to act as judge in matters arising beyond the limits of the forts, and my right to take charge of unrepresented estates. As I have before said, I have, as far as possible, defended with success the first of these jurisdictions. In the second, which

which is the case of Hervey, I failed; but it was in evidence that I acted with the privity and by the direction of successive Governors and with the approval of the leading men upon the Gold Coast, and that it was a duty very much contemplated when the office of judicial assessor was established. My interference was shown also to have been so useful and proper that the judge, Vice-Chancellor Wood, who decided against me, gave me a large portion of the cost incurred in the suit, and expressly stated that he decided against me solely on account of the vagueness and insufficiency of my warrant, which conferred, as he said, in fact, no authority at all.

It results thus, that by the direction of the Queen's representative on the Gold Coast (the Governor), I have performed certain duties which were intended to be within my warrant, and have been deprived of any remuneration for the performance of such duties; that I have been subjected to certain legal expenses in defending myself from the personal responsibilities sought to be established against me; and that I have been put to much loss and serious personal inconvenience by being obliged to resign my office, and remain in London for more than two years for the same cause. These consequences were caused by no fault or misconduct on my part, but sprung naturally from my having been sent out to a difficult and responsible post, with a warrant of no more value than a piece of waste paper. I can scarcely conceive a case which presents a stronger claim for compensation; but I have only asked that its merits should be submitted to the consideration of some competent person. I had hoped that such a matter might have been disposed of privately and at once; but I am willing to meet the fullest inquiry, and have requested a Member of the House of Commons to move for certain papers connected with the subject, so that, if it be preferred, my conduct and claim may be openly discussed, and I trust that I shall receive from the Colonial Office every requisite facility.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Fitzpatrick.*

— No. 50. —

No. 50.
J. Ball, Esq., M.P., to J. C. Fitzpatrick, Esq.
17 July 1856

COPY of LETTER from *J. Ball*, Esq., M.P., to *J. C. Fitzpatrick*, Esq.

Sir, Downing-street, 17 July 1856.

1. I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to observe, in reply to your letter of the 10th instant, that in your former letter* of the 17th May you proposed to discharge the claim of Mr. Hutton, unless instructed to the contrary by this department. You further proposed to transmit to the present judicial assessor the balance of the funds for distribution amongst the creditors of Marman, and you requested that the colonial agent should be authorised to receive and transmit to the Gold Coast your account, and the balance due thereon, after the discharge of Mr. Hutton's claim; Mr. Labouchere informed you that he must leave the question of discharging Mr. Hutton's claim to your decision. To this you made no objection; but by your letter of the 20th ultimo, only informed Mr. Labouchere of your having paid Mr. Hutton, and asked for information as to the mode in which you might transmit the sum remaining to your successor at the Gold Coast. You were answered, that there was no objection to this being done through the agent for the colony. And it was at the same time pointed out, that you should inform the judicial assessor in what manner, and for what purposes, the funds were transmitted to him. Mr. Labouchere is at a loss to know in what respect this direction, merely given in order to answer a question put by yourself, is now objected to; but he can only repeat his former statement, that it is impossible for Her Majesty's Government to assume responsibility in respect to legal transactions to which they have not been parties.

* Page 83.

2. With regard to the remaining portion of your letter, Mr. Labouchere concludes that the correspondence on this subject is now terminated, and he can only regret the unsuccessful issue of his own attempts, as well as those of Lord John Russell, to arrange the questions at issue on what appeared to him the equitable

equitable footing of your being guaranteed against all loss from the transactions in which you were engaged as assessor on the Gold Coast. He will have no objection to the production of the papers connected with your case.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Ball.*

Mr. Henry Connor's Warrants of Appointment.

No. 51.
Mr. Henry Connor's Warrant of Appointment.
22 July 1854.

— No. 51. —

Henry Connor, Esq., to be Assessor or Assistant to the Native Sovereigns and Chiefs within the Countries adjacent to Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast.

V. R.

Trusty and well beloved, We greet you well:

Whereas by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the seventh year of our reign, intituled, "An Act to remove doubts as to the exercise of power and jurisdiction by Her Majesty within divers countries and places out of Her Majesty's dominions, and to render the same more effectual," it was enacted, that it was and should be lawful for Us to hold, exercise, and enjoy any power or jurisdiction which We then had, or might at any time thereafter have, within any country or place out of Our dominions, in the same and as ample a manner as if We had acquired such power or jurisdiction by the cession or conquest of territory: And whereas at the time of passing of the said Act, We had and still have, by usage and sufferance, or by one or other of these, or by other lawful means, power, and jurisdiction within divers countries and places out of it, but adjacent to Our Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast: Now know you that We, reposing especial trust and confidence in the loyalty, integrity, and ability of Our trusty and well-beloved Henry Connor, Esq., have thought fit hereby to authorise and require you forthwith to cause Letters Patent to be passed under the Public Seal of Our said Forts and Settlements, constituting and appointing him, the said Henry Connor, to be assessor or assistant to the native sovereigns and chiefs within the countries aforesaid, to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office and place during Our pleasure, with all the rights, profits, privileges, and advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining; and for so doing this shall be your warrant. Given at Our Court, at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, this 22d day of July 1854, in the eighteenth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command.
(signed) *G. Grey.*

Superscribed,

To Our trusty and well-beloved Stephen John Hill, Esq., Lieutenant-colonel in Our army, Our Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over Our Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast, or, in his absence, to Our Lieutenant-governor, or the Officer administering the Government of Our said Forts and Settlements.

No. 52.
. Connor, Esq., be Assessor to ative Chiefs, old Coast.
13 May 1856.

— No. 52. —

Henry Connor, Esq., to be Assessor to Native Chiefs, Gold Coast.

(Appointment as Assessor or Assistant to Native Sovereigns and Chiefs revoked).

V. R.

Trusty and well-beloved, We greet you well:

Whereas, We did by Our warrant, bearing date the 22d day of July 1854, in the eighteenth year of Our reign, authorise and require Our trusty and well-beloved Stephen John Hill, Esq, then Lieutenant-colonel in Our army, Our Governor

Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over Our Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast, to cause Letters Patent to be passed under the Public Seal of Our said Forts and Settlements, constituting and appointing Our trusty and well-beloved Henry Connor, Esq., to be assessor or assistant to the native sovereigns and chiefs within the countries out of, but adjacent to Our said Forts and Settlements, to have, hold, and exercise the said office and place during Our pleasure.

And whereas, in pursuance of Our said warrant, Letters Patent were accordingly issued under the Public Seal of Our said Forts and Settlements, constituting and appointing the said Henry Connor to be assessor or assistant to the said native sovereigns and chiefs within the countries out of, but adjacent to Our said Forts and Settlements.

And whereas, we have seen fit to revoke the said appointment of the said Henry Connor to be assessor or assistant to the said native sovereigns within the said countries out of, but adjacent to Our said Forts and Settlements.

We do therefore, by this Our warrant under Our Sign Manual and Signet, authorise and require you to cause Letters Patent under the Public Seal of Our said Forts and Settlements, revoking the said recited Letters Patent, and recalling the appointment of the said Henry Connor to be assessor or assistant to the native sovereigns and chiefs within the countries out of, but adjacent to Our said Forts and Settlements.

And whereas an order* has been made by Us, by and with the advice and consent

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* At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 4th day of April 1856.

Present:—The Queen's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas, by a certain Act of Parliament made and passed in the Session of Parliament holden in the sixth and seventh years of Her Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act to enable Her Majesty to provide for the Government of the Settlements on the Coast of Africa, and in the Falkland Islands," it was amongst other things enacted, that it should be lawful for Her Majesty, by any Order in Council, to establish all such laws, and to constitute such courts and officers, and to make such provisions for the proceedings in such courts, and for the administration of justice, as might be necessary for the peace, order, and good government of Her Majesty's subjects, and others within the said settlements.

And whereas by another Act of Parliament, made and passed in the aforesaid Session of Parliament, intituled, "An Act to remove Doubts as to the exercise of Power and Jurisdiction by Her Majesty within divers Countries and Places out of Her Majesty's Dominions, and to render the same more effectual," it was amongst other things enacted, that it should be lawful for Her Majesty to hold, exercise, and enjoy any power or jurisdiction which Her Majesty then had, or might at any time thereafter have within any country or place out of Her Majesty's dominions, in the same and as ample manner as if Her Majesty had acquired such power or jurisdiction by the cession or conquest of territory.

And whereas Her Majesty hath acquired power and jurisdiction within divers countries on the said coast of Africa, hereinafter called "the Protected Territories on the Gold Coast," near or adjacent to Her Majesty's forts and settlements on the said Gold Coast, and it is expedient to determine the mode of exercising such power and jurisdiction.

It is hereby ordered by Her Majesty, with the advice and consent of Her Privy Council, as follows:—

1. In respect of all civil or criminal matters and questions which shall arise within the said "protected territories," and in regard to which Her Majesty shall be competent to exercise such jurisdiction as aforesaid without the co-operation of any native chief or authority, and especially in respect of all matters relating to the property of any bankrupt or insolvent person, all magistrates and courts of justice authorised to act within Her Majesy's forts and settlements on the Gold Coast, shall have the same power and jurisdiction as if such matters or questions had arisen within the said forts or settlements; and, in respect to all other civil and criminal matters and questions whatever which may arise within the said territories, it is ordered, that any person hereafter appointed by Her Majesty to be assessor to the native chiefs, shall possess and have all such powers and jurisdiction as may at any time have been lawfully acquired by Her Majesty in the said territories.

2. Provided always, that it shall be lawful for the Governor of the said forts and settlements, by any Ordinance or Ordinances to be by him framed, with the advice and consent of his Legislative Council, and subject to Her Majesty's power to disallow such Ordinance or Ordinances, to make regulations respecting the exercise of all such powers and jurisdiction as aforesaid.

3. Provided also, that in the determination of any matter or question which may concern or arise out of any dealing with the natives of the said protected territories, equitable regard shall be paid to the local customs of the said territories, so far as the same shall not be repugnant to Christianity or to natural justice.

4. And whereas, in virtue of such jurisdiction as aforesaid Her Majesty is, in certain cases, entitled to assume the custody and disposal of the property of deceased persons within the said territories, and it is expedient to prescribe regulations respecting such custody and disposal, it is hereby further ordered, that the following Articles shall have the form of law within the said forts and

consent of Our Privy Council, bearing date the 4th day of April of the present year, for determining the mode of exercising the power and jurisdiction acquired by

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and settlements, and so far as Her Majesty's said power and jurisdiction shall at any time extend within the said territories.

Art. 1. Any person shall be entitled to administer to the property and effects of any deceased person within the said protected territories, whether under or by virtue of any will or codicil, or in cases of intestacy, who would be entitled to administer to the same, if they were situate within the said forts and settlements.

Art. 2. It shall be lawful for the Governor of the said forts and settlements by writing under his hand and seal, to appoint from time to time any person or persons to be or act as registrars of wills and official administrators within the said forts or settlements or within the said protected territories.

Art. 3. It shall be lawful for the Governor to authorise any two or more of the official administrators to take possession of the property, effects, and papers, and to collect and receive the debts of any deceased person being within the said forts, settlements, or protected territories.

Art. 4. The official administrators so authorised shall immediately on taking possession of such property secure and make an inventory of the same, and if they shall discover any testamentary paper of such deceased person, shall forthwith deposit the same in the same plight and condition as when they found or received the same with a registrar of wills, and shall forthwith forward a copy thereof to one of the executors (if any) named therein, or failing the appointment of any executor, to the residuary legatee, or to some person principally benefited thereby, and in any case shall with all convenient speed lodge a report and account of the state of such property, and a copy of the aforesaid inventory with the said registrar, and shall, so long as they shall continue in possession of the said property, lodge with the said registrar such supplemental inventories as may be necessary to exhibit the full state thereof, and monthly statements of all their receipts and payments, and of all their dealings and transactions respecting it.

Art. 5. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the said forts and settlements shall on the application of the executor or administrator of any deceased person, order and compel the official administrator in charge of the property of such deceased person to deliver the same to such executor or administrator at such time and in such manner, and subject to such conditions as in the said Order shall be specified, together with copies of all such inventories, reports, and statements as aforesaid.

Art. 6. The said Chief Justice, on the application of one of such official administrators, or of any person interested in any such property, may issue such orders and directions as may appear requisite to secure the proper collection, recovery, disposal, and transmission of the property.

Art. 7. In the absence of any such order or directions, the official administrators shall proceed with all convenient speed to collect all such property and convert the same into money, and shall therewith pay the debts and funeral expenses of the deceased person, and shall transmit the residue of the said property, or of the proceeds thereof (if any) to the persons legally entitled to receive the same in such manner and at such time or times as may be approved by the said Chief Justice, and shall within a period to be named by the said Chief Justice, lodge with the said registrar a final account of the disposal of such property; and in case from any cause the clear residue cannot be immediately remitted to the persons entitled, the same shall be deposited or invested in the meantime in such manner as the Chief Justice (if it appears to him proper so to do) shall direct.

Art. 8. The official administrators in charge of the property of any deceased person, or any of them, may sue or be sued in like manner as if they were executors acting under the will of such deceased person.

Art. 9. It shall be lawful for the Governor of the said forts and settlements by any Ordinance or Ordinances to be by him framed with the advice and consent of his Legislative Council, and subject to Her Majesty's power to disallow such Ordinance or Ordinances, to make regulations respecting the mode of obtaining probates of wills and letters of administration, of the effects of deceased persons within the said forts, settlements, and protected territories, and respecting the security to be taken from, and the remuneration to be paid to the said official administrators, and the discharges to be given them; and respecting the performance of the duties imposed on them, and the penalties to be incurred by them for non-performance of the same, and respecting the mode of applying to the said Chief Justice for such order, directions, or approval as hereinbefore mentioned, and respecting all other matters necessary for giving effect to this Order in Council.

Art. 10. The said Chief Justice may enforce any order or direction issued by him or by any other competent authority touching the matters herein referred to against any person or persons whatsoever, by such lawful means as to him shall seem meet.

5. And it is further ordered, that in the construction of this Order in Council the phrases "Governor," "Chief Justice," "Registrar," and "Official Administrator," shall respectively include any person lawfully acting as such Governor, Chief Justice, Registrar, or Official Administrator.

And the Right Honourable Henry Labouchere, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(signed) *Wm. L. Bathurst.*

by Us within divers countries called the Protected Territories, near or adjacent to Our said Forts and Settlements on the said Gold Coast.

And it is therefore expedient that an assessor to the chiefs of the said Protected Territories be appointed by Us, to exercise, in regard to certain civil and criminal matters and questions which may arise within the said protected territories, all such powers and jurisdiction as may at any time have been lawfully acquired by Us in the said territories.

Now We do, by this Our warrant, under Our Sign Manual and Signet, authorise and require you forthwith to cause Letters Patent to be passed under the Public Seal of Our said Forts and Settlements, constituting and appointing the said Henry Connor to be assessor to the native chiefs, within the said Protected Territories near or adjacent to Our said Forts and Settlements on the said Gold Coast, to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office and place during Our pleasure, with all the rights, profits, privileges, and advantages thereto belonging or appertaining; and for so doing this shall be your warrant. Given at Our Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, this 13th day of May 1856, in the nineteenth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command.

(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

Superscribed,

To Our trusty and well-beloved Stephen John Hill, Esq., Brevet-major in Our army, Our Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over Our Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast; or, in his absence, to Our Lieutenant-governor, or the Officer administering the Government of Our said Forts and Settlements.

COPY of WARRANT appointing *James Cole Fitzpatrick*, Esq., Judicial Assessor on *Gold Coast*, and of CORRESPONDENCE with t said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick*; also, of th WARRANTS appointing *Henry Connor*, Esq Judicial Assessor, on the Resignation of th said *James Coleman Fitzpatrick*.

(*Mr. Pigott.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
29 *July* 1856.

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